

THE BATCHELERS BANQUET:

OR,
A BANQUET for BATCHELERS.

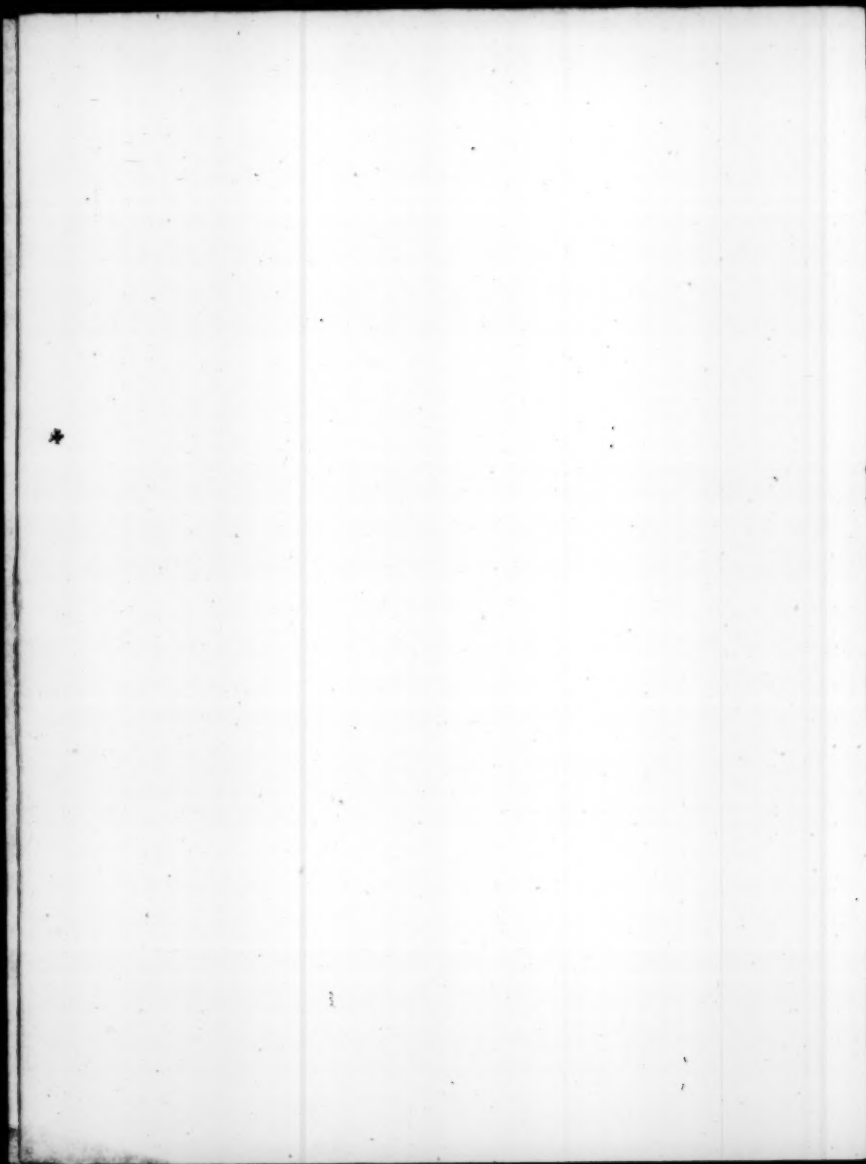
VVherein is prepared sundry dainty
Dishes to furnish their Tables, curiously
Drest, and seriously served in.

Pleasantly discoursing the variable humours of
Women, their quicknesse of Wits, and
vnsearchable Deceits.

*View them well, but taste not,
Regard them well, but waste not.*



LONDON,
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Batchelor's Banquet.
4°. 1630.

This rare old tract is
from the pen of
Tho^o. Dekker a dramatick
writer in the time of
James I.st



The Batchelers Banquet :
Or a Banquet for Batchelers : wherein is pre-
pared sundry dishes to furnish their Table :
Curiously drest, and seriously
serued in.

CHAP. I.

The humour of a young wife new married.



Is the naturall inclination of a young gallant, in the pleasant prime, and flower of his flourishing youth, being fresh, lusty, iocund, to take no other care, but to imploy his money to buy gay presents for pretty Lasses, to frame his graine wits in penning Rone Ditties, his voyce to sing them sweetly, his wandring eyes to gaze on the fairest Dames, and his wanton thoughts to plot meanes for the speedy accomplishment of his wished desires, according to the compasse of his estate. And albeit his parents or some other of his kindred, do perhaps furnish him with necessary maintenance, so that he wants nothing, but liues in all ease & delight, yet cannot this content him or satisfie his vnerperenced mind: for althoug he dayly se many married men, first lapt in Lobs pound, wanting former libertie & compassed round in a cage of many cares, yet notwithstanding over-ruled by selfe will, and blinded by folly: he suppose them therein to haue the fulnesse of their delight, because they haue so neare them the Image of content, Venus starre gloriously
blazing

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blazing vpon them, I meane a daintie faire wife, bzauely attired, whose apparell perhaps is not yet paid for. (howsoeuer to draw their husbands into a soles paradise) they make him beloeue, that their father or mother haue of their cost and bounty afforded it. This lustie youth (as I earst said) seeing them already in this maze of bitter swagines, he goes round about, turmoyling himselfe in seeking an entrance, and taking such paines to find his owne paine, that in the end, in he gets, when for the haile he makes, to haue a taste of these supposed delicacies, he hath no leisure to thinke, or no care to prouide those things that are hereunto requisite. The folly yonger being thus gotten in, both for a time swim in delight, and hath no desire at all to wind himselfe out againe, till time and use, which makes all things more familiar and lesse pleasing, doe qualifie this humor, then glatted with sacietie, or pinched with penury, he may perhaps begin to see his follie, and repent as well his fondnesse as his too much forwarde, but all to late, he must haue patience perforce: his wife must be maintained according to her degree, and withall (commonly it happens the carte the right stomacke of a woman) slender maintenance will not serue, for as their miudes mount about their estates, so commonly will they haue their abilliments. And if at a feast or some other gossip meeting whereunto she is invited, she see any of the companie gaily attyred for cost, or fashion, or both, & chiefly the latter, for generally woman do affect newelities, she forthwith moues a question in her selfe, why she also should not be in like sort attyred, to haue her garments cut after the new fashion as well as the rest, and answers it with resolution, that she will, and must haue the like: A waiting onely fit time and place, for the mouing and winning of her husband thereunto, of both which she will make such choice, that when she speaks she will be sure to spee; observing her opportunities when she might take her Husband at the most advantage, which is commonly, the gardaine of loue, the state of marriage delights, and the life wherein the weaker sexe hath ener the better: when therefore this lustie gallant would fulfill his

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his desire, for which cause he chiefly ran wilfully into the perill of Robs pounce, then sguamishly he begins thus, saying, I pray you husband let me alone, trouble me not, for I am not well at ease: which he hearing presently makes this reply.

Why my sweetheart what ailes you, are you not well? I pray the wife tell me, where lies thy griefe? or what is the cause of your discontent: wherupon the wile woman fetching a deepe sigh, makes this answer. O Husband God help me. I haue cause enough to gréue, and if you knew all you would say so: but alas it is in vaine to tell you any thing, seeing that whatsoeuer I say, you make but light reckning of it: and therefore it is best for me to bury my sorowes in Silence, being out of hope to haue any help at your hands. Iesus wife (saith he) why hie you these wordes, is my unkindnesse such that I may not know your griefes? tell me I say what is the matter? In truth husband it were to no purpose, for I know your custome well enough, as for my wordes, they are but waft wind in your eares, for how great soeuer my griefe is, I am assured you will but make light of it, and thinke that I speake it for some other purpose.

Goe too wife, saith her husband, tell it me, for I will know it. Well husband, if you will néedes, you shall: you know on Thursd day last, I was sent for, and you willed me to goe to Mistresse M. churching, and when I came thither I found great cheare, & no smal compantie of wiues, but the meaneest of them all was not so ill attired as I, and surely I was neuer so ashamed of my selfe in my life, yet I speak it not to praise my selfe: but it is well knowne, and I dare boldly say, that the best woman there came of no better stocke then I. But alas I speake not this for my selfe, for God wot I passe not how meanelly I am apparelled, but I speake it for your credit & my friends. Why wife, saith he, of what calling & degré were those you speak of. Truly god husband (saith she) the meaneest that was there, being but of my degré, was in her gowne with fruncke sleeves, her bardigale, her turtie arograin kirtle her tassetts but with a gold band, and these with y^e rest of her attire, made of y^e newest fashio, which is

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knows the best : whereas I poore wretch had on my threadbare gowne, which was made me so long agoe, against I was married, besides that it was now too short for me, for it is I remember since it was made about thre yeares agoe, since which time I am growne very much, and so changed with cares and griefes, that I looke farre older then I am : Trust me I was so ashamed, being amongst my neighbours, that I had not the heart to looke vp, but that which grieved me most was, when mistress Luce B and mistress T. say openly that it was a shame both for you and me, that I had no better apparell. Thus wife (quoth the good man) let them say what they list, we are neuer a whit the worse for their words, we haue enough to doe with our money though we spend it not in apparell : you know wife when we met together, we had no great store of household stuffe, but were faine to buy it after ward by some and some, as God sent money, and yet you see we want many things that is necessary to be had : besides the quarter day is nere, and my Landlord you know will not forbear his rent : moreover you see how much it costs me in law about the recovering of the Tenement which I should haue by you, God send me to get it quickly, or else I shall haue but a bad bargaine of it for it hath already almost cost me as much as it is worth. At these words his wines collar begins to rise, whereupon he makes him this answer. Godly, godly (saith he) when you haue nothing else to hit me in the teeth withall, yet thoult me with the Tenement : but it is my fortune. Why how now wife saith her husband, are you now angry for nothing ? say I am not angry, I must be content with that which God hath ordained for me : but this is the time was, when I might haue bene better aduised, there are some yet liuing that would haue been glad to haue me in my smock, whom you know well enough, to be proper young men, and therewithall wise and wealthy, but I verily suppose I was bewitcht to match with a man that loues me not, though I purchased the ill will of all my friends for his sake, this is all the good that I haue gotten thereby : I may truly say I am the most unhappy woman in the

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the world: doe you thinke that Law. Tom. and N.M. (who were both sisters to me) doe keepe their wiues so: no byz-lady, for I know the worst cloathes that they cast off, is better then my very best, which I weare on the cheldest dayes in the yere: I know not what the cause is that so many good women die, but I would to God that I were dead too, that I might not trouble you no moze, seeing I am such an eye soze vnto you. Now by my faith wife saith he, you say not well, there is nothing that I thinke too good for you, if my abillitie can compass it. But you know our estate, we must doe as we may, & not as we would, yet be of good cheare, and I will straine my selfe to please you, in this or any other thing.

May, I haue no mind on such matters, and if you had no moze care thereto then I, I promise you, you would neuer such me. Now wife (saith he) hoping so with a lust to make her mery, by my honesty I sweare, I verily thinke that if I were dead, you would not be long without another husband. Now maruall sure saith she, I lead such a good life with you now. By my christian soule I sweare, there should neuer man kisse my lipps againe. And if I thought I should liue long with you, I would vse meanes to make my selfe away: herewithall she puts finger in the eye making shew as though she wept. Thus plaies she with the Allie (at her husbands) (meaning nothing lesse then to doe as she saies) while he woe sole is in mind both well and ill ayd, he thinks himselfe well, because he imagines her of a cold constitution, and therefore excusing chafe: he thinks himselfe ill, to see her fained teares, so that he verily supposes she loues him, which doth not a little graue him, being so kind and tender hearted. Therefore he vseth all meanes possible to make her quiet, neuer will he glue her ouer, till he hath effected it, But she persecuting her former purpose, which she hath already set in so faire a forwardnes, makes as though she were nothing moued with his gentle perswasions; Therefore to crosse him, she gets her by betimes in the morning, sooner a great deale then she was wont, pointing and laweing all the day, and not giuing him one good word. But when night comes,
and

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Not she
for twen-
ty pound,
good wo-
man.

and they againe both in bed, laying her selfe suddenly downe,
and continuing still silent, the good man harkens whether she
sleep or no, & says if she be wel covered or not, he softly plucks by
the cloaths vpon her, lapping her warme, being double diligent
to please her. Whyling all this while winking, noting his
kindnesse and carefulnesse towards her, comes on a suddaine to
awake from a sound sleepe, grunting and nudling vnder the
sheetes, giuing him occasion thereby thus to begin. How now
sweet heart, what are you a sleepe? A sleepe (saith she) I saith he
no: a troubled mind can neuer take good rest. Why would are
you not quiet yet? As doubt (saith she) you care much whether
I be or no. By lady wife, and so I doe: and since yesternight I
haue bethought me (hauing well considered your wordes) that
it is very mete and requisite, that you should be better sur-
nished with apparell then heretofore you haue been, so; indeed
I must confesse thy cloaths are too simple. And therefore I mean
against my cousin M. wedding (which you know will be shortly)
that you shall haue a new gowne, made on the best fashion,
with all things suitable thereunto, in such sort that the best wo-
man in the parish shall not passe you. Say (quoth she) God
willing I mean to go to no weddings this twelue moneth, so;
the goodly credit I got by the last. By my faith (saith he) but
you shall: what? you must not be so headstrong and selfe-wild.
I tell you if I say the word, you shall goe, and you shall want
nothing that you aske or require. What I aske & alas husband
(quoth she) I aske nothing, neither did I speake this for any de-
sire that I haue to goe byane: trust me for mine owne part I
care not if I neuer stirre abroad, save onely to church: but what
I said was vpon the speeches which were there used, and such
other like wordes, which my gossip N. told me that she had al-
so heard in company where she was. With these wordes y good
kind soles her husband is nettled, so; on the one side he considers
his sundry other occasion to vse money, and his small store
thereof, which is perhaps so slender, that his single purse can-
not extempore change a double pikeolet. And so ill beset is hee
of household stasse, that perhaps the third part is not a sufficient
paynes.

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patrons for so much money, as this new suite of his clothes will stand him in. But on the other side he weighs her discontent the report of neighbours speeches, and lastly, how good a wife he hath of her: how chaste, how loving, how religious, whereof the kind Ake hath such an opinion, that he thanks God with all his heart, for blessing him with such a Jewel: In this thought he resolves that all other things set aside, he must and will content her. And here with all he sets his business a fresh on worke, to consider how best hee may compasse it: And in this humour he spends the whole night without sleepe, in continuall thought. And it comes to passe that the wife perceiuing to what a point she hath brought her purpose, doth not a little reioyce and smiles in her sleepe to see it. The next morning by the breake of day the poore man gets vp, who for care and thought could take no rest all night, and goes presently to the Drapers, of whom he takes vp cloth for thre moneths time, paying for it after an excessive rate, by reason of their forbearance, and in like sort makes provision for the rest; or perhaps because he would buy it at a better rate, he pawns for ready money the lease of his house, or some faire peece of plate (which his grandfather bought, and his father charily keeping) left for him, which now he is enforced to part with, to furnish thereby his wifes pride: and having thus dispatched his business, he returns home with a merrie heart, and shewes his wife what he had done: who being now fare of all, begins to curse the first inventors of pride, and excess in apparell: saying, Fye vpon it, what pride is this: but I pray you husband, doe not say hereafter, that I made you lay out your money in this needles sort, for I protest that I haue no delight or desire to goe thus garishly: If I haue to conuer my body and keepe me warme it contents me. The good man hearing his wife say so, doth euen leape for ioy, thinking all her words Gospel, and therefore presently he sets the Taylor a worke, willing him to dispatch out of hand, that his wife may be brave so soone as may be. She having thus obtained her purpose, doth inwardly triumph for very ioy, howsoeuer outwardly she doth dissemble. And whereas before she haunted, that she could find

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in her heart to keepe alwaies within doore, she will be sure
 now euery good day to goe abroad, and at each feast and Sole-
 mnes meeting to be a continuall guest, that all may see her
 bjauerie, and how well she doth become it, for which cause
 she also comes euery Sunday daily to the Church, that there
 she may see and be seene, which her husband thinks she doth
 of mere deuotion. But in the meane while the time runs
 on, and the day comes, wherein the poore man must pay
 his creditors, which being unable to doe, he is at length
 arrested, and after due proceeding in law, he hath an execu-
 tion serued vpon him, or else his pawne is forfeited, and by
 either of both he is almost utterly vndone. Then must his
 fine wife of force baile her peacocks plumes, and fall againe
 to her old byas, keeping her house againe as her will, because
 she could not be furnished with gay attire according to her
 minde. But God knoweth in what miserie the fillic man
 doth liue, being daily vexed with her brawling and scolding,
 exclaiming againe him, that all the house doth ring thereof,
 and in this sort she begins her sagaries. Now cursed be the
 day that euer I saw thy face, and a shame take them that
 brought me first acquainted with thee: I would to God I had
 either died in my cradle or gone to my graue when I went
 to be married with thee. Was euer woman of my degree
 and birth brought to this beggerie? Or any of my byrning
 by kept thus basely, and brought to this shame? I which
 little knew what labour meant, must now toyle and tend the
 house as a drudge, hauing neuer a coate to my backe, or scant
 haufome hose to my legs, and yet all little enough, where,
 as I wis I might haue had twentie good mariages, in the
 meanest of which I should haue liued at ease and pleasure,
 without being put to any paine, or suffering any penurie.
 Wherein that I am, why doe I liue? now would to God I
 were in my graue already, for I am wearie of the world, wear-
 ie of my life, and wearie of all. Thus doth she daily complaine,
 and lay all the fault of her fall on him which least deserved it,
 nothing remembryng her owne pride, in coueting things
 about her estate or abilitie, her misgouernment, and daily
 gadding.

Alas poor
 foole.

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gadding with her Gossips to banquets and Bidales, when she should haue lookt to the house, and followed her owne busines at home. And his follie is also such, that being blinded with Dotage, (through too much louing her,) cannot perceiue that she is the cause of all this euill, of all the cares, griefes, and thoughts, which perplex and torture him, and yet nothing cuts him so much as this, to see her so fainth and bqniuet, when if he can at any time somewhat pacifie, then is his heart somewhat at rest. Thus both the illie wretch tosse and turmoyle himselfe in Lobs pound, wapt in a kinde of pleasing woe, out of the which he hath neither power, nor will to winde himselfe; but therein doeth consume the remnant of his Langning life, and miserable ends his dayes.

CHAP. II.

The humour of a Woman, pranked vp in
braue Apparell.

The nature of a Woman enclined to another kinde of humour, (which is this) when the Wife seeing her self brauely Apparellled, and that she is therewith faire and comely (or if she be not) yet thinking her selfe so (as Women are naturally giuen to looth themselves,) she doth as I saide befoze, hunt after Feasts and Solemne meetings, where with her Husband perhaps is not very well pleased; which she perceiuing, the more to bleare his Eyes, she takes with her some Minstwoman, or Gossip, or possible some lassy Gallant, of whom she claimes kindred, though in very deed there be no such matter, but onely a smooth colour to deceiue her Husband: And perchances to indrece him the sooner to bliene it, her Mother (which is pinte to the match,) will not dicke to say, and sweare it is so; Yet sometime the Husband to pzenent his wities gadding, will saue some let, as want of Poses, or other like hinderances; Then pzenently the Gossip or Minstwoman (of whom befoze I spake,) will thus solemnely assault him.

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Wellene mee Gossip, I haue as little pleasure, as who hath least, in going abroad, for I wis I had not so much businesse to doe this Twelue moneths as I haue at this instant: yet should I not goe to this Wedding, being so kindly bloddin, I knowe the young Bride would take it in very ill part: Yea, and (I may say to you) so would our Neighbours, and others our Friends, which will bee there, who would verily imagine, we keepe away for some other cause: and were it not for this, I protest I would not stirre out of doores, neither would my Cousen your Wife haue any desire to goe thither: thus much I can truly witness, that I neuer knew any woman take lesse delight in such things then your Wife; or which being abroad, will make more haste to bee at home againe.

Thasillis man her Husband, beeing banquished by these wordes, and no longer able to denie their request, demands onely what other Women doe appoint to goe, and who shall man them? Martie say, (saith she) that shall my Cousen H. And besides your Wife and I, there goes my Kins-woman T. and her Mother, missresse H. and her Aunte: my Uncle T. and his Brother be mette with both their Wines: Missresse C. my next Neighbour: and to conclude, all the Women of account in this streets: (I dare boldly say.) that honest company there cannot bee, though it were to conueye a Kings Daughter.

Now it oft channeth that this smooth tongued Quairie who pleades thus quaintly with womans Arte, must haue for her paines a Golue cloth, a Jewell, or some other recompence, if she preuaile with the good man, and cunningly play her part. He after some pause (perhaps) will replie in this sort; Gossip, I confesse it is very good company, but my wife hath now great businesse at home, and besides she w^ld goe very much abroad, yet for this time I am content she shall goe; But I pray you, Dame (saith he) be at home betimes. His wife seeing that her gossip had gottē leave, make as if she cares not for going forth, saying: By my Faith man I haue something else to doe, then to goe to a Brideall at this present: what, wee haue a great Household, & ryde seruant (God wot) whose idleness is such, that they

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they will not doe any thing, if a bodie backs be turn'd: for it is an old Proverbe: (When the Catte is away, the Mouse will play.) And therefore Gossip hold you content, we must not be altogether careless, nor set so much by our pleasure, to neglect our profits; And therefore hold me excused, for I cannot now be spared. nor I will not goe, that is flat. Say good Gossip (saith the other) seeing your Husband hath given you leave, let vs have your companie this once, and if it bee but for my sake, such a chance as this comes not every day. With that the good man taking the old Cybalide, whispers her thus in her eare: were it not Gossip for the confidence I repose in you, I protest thee should see stricke out of doores at this time. Now as I am an honest woman (quoth she) and of my credit Gossip you shall not have to doubt anything.

Thus to Horse they get, and away they spurre, with a merle gallop, laughing to themselves, mocking and flouting the silly man for his simplicitie: the one saying to the other, that hee had a shrewd zealous byaine, but it should analle him nothing. Tush (saith the young woman) it is an old saying. He had neede of a long spoone that will cate with the Diuell; and shee of a good witte, that would preuent the Furie of a jealous foole: and with this and the like talke, they passe the time till they come to the place appointed, where they meete with lustie Gallants, who (paradventure) had at the former feast made the match, and were come thither of purpose to strike vp the bargain. But howsoever it is, this lustie Lasse lacks no good cheate, nor any kindnesse which they can shew her.

Imagine now how forward she will be to shewe her best skill in Dauncing and Saging, and how lightly shee will afterward resume her Husband, being thus courted and commended by a crew of lustie Gallants, who seeing her so bravely attired, and graced with so sweet and smooth a tongue, so sharpe a wit, so amiable a countenance, will each strive to exceede other, in serving, louing, and pleasing her: for the gallant carriage and wanton demeanour of so beautifull a peece, cannot chase but encourage a meere Coward, and heate (if not enflame) a frozen heart: One assays her with sugred termes, and

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some pleasant discourse, painting forth his affection with Louers eloquence : Another giues her a pynns Token, by straining her soft hand ; or treading on her prettife foote ; Another Eyes her with a piercing and pittifoll looke, making his countenance his saucies Herold : and perhaps the third (which is most likely to speed) bestows vpon her a gold Ring, a Diamond, a Ruby, or some such like costly toy : By all which aforesaid tokens, she may well conceiue their meanings, (if she haue any conceite at all,) and sometimes it so fallies out, that they fall in where they should not ; and shee stepping some what aside, doth so shyldly straine her honestie, that hardly or neuer the griefe can be cured. But to proceed, this ouergoingtous wantonning of his Wife, byings the poore man behind hand, and doth with all cause a greater inconuenience; for in the end by one meanes or other, either through her too much boldnes, or her Louers want of warinesse, the matter at length comes to light, whereof some Friend or Kinsman giues him notice,

Shee being tickled by this bad report, thereupon searching further, findes it true, or gathers moze likelihood of suspicion, and that presently infects his thoughts with Zealouffe, into which mad tormenting humoz, no wise man will euer fall; for it is an euill both extreme and endles, especially (if it be iustly conceiued) vpon the wiues knowne leaudnes, for then ther is no hope of curing. Shee on the other side (seeing this, & receiuing for her losse life, many bitter speeches) doth closely keepe on her old course, but now moze for spight then pleasure; for it is in vaine to thinke that she will reclaim her selfe. And if shee (hoping by constraint to make her honest) fall to beating her, (though shee be neuer so much seueritie,) shee shall but kindele so much the moze the fire of that lewd Loue, which she beares vnto others hereon folloves a heap of mischiseses; shee growes carelesse of his busines, letting all things runne to ruine : Shee on the other side (becomes shamelesse,) conuerting into deadly hate the Loue that she should beare him. Iudge now what a purgatorie of perperities the poore man doeth liue in ; and yet for all this, shee is so besotted, that shee seemes to take great pleasure in his paines, and to be so farre in loue with Lobs pound, that

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that were he not already in, yet he would make all haile possible to be possessed of the place, there to consume the residue of his life, and miserably end his daies.

CHAP. III.

The humour of a woman lying in Child bed.

There is another humour incident to a woman, when her husband sees her belly to grow big (though peradventure by the helps of some other friend) yet he perswades himselfe, it is a wayke of his owne framing: and this breeds him new cares and troubles, for then must he trot by and downe day and night, farre and neare, to get with great cost that his wife longs for: if she let fall but a pin, he is diligent to take it by, least she by stooping should hurt her selfe. She on the other side is so hard to please, that it is a great hap when he hits her humour, in bringing home that which likes her, though he spare no paines nor cost to get it. And oft times through ease and plentie she growes so queasie stomacht, that she can brooke no common meates, but longs for strange and rare things, which whether they be to be had or no, yet she must haue them there is no remedie. She must haue Cherries, though for a pound he pay ten shillings, or greene Peseades at foure pables a pecke: yea, he must take a horse, and ride into the Countrey, to get his greene Codlings, when they are scarcely so big as a scotch button. In this trouble and variation of mind and body, limes the silly man for six or seuen moneths. all which time his wife doth nothing but complaine, and he poore soule takes all the care, rising early, going late to bed, and to be short, is faine to play both the husband and his wife. But when the time drawes nere of her lying downe, then must he trudge to get Cossips, such as she will appoint, or else all the fatte is in the fire. Consider then what cost and trouble it will be to him, to haue all things fine against the Christning day, what store of Sugar, Biskets, Comphets and Carabawes, Parmilet-
and

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and Marchpane, with all kind of sweet suckets, and superfluous banquetting stuffe, with a hundred other odde and needlesse trifles, which at that time must fill the pockets of daintie dames: Besides the charge of the midwife, she must haue her nurse to attend and keepe her, who must make for her warme breaths, and costly catwells, enough both for her selfe and her mistresse, bring of the mince to fare no worse then she: If her mistresse be fedde with partridge, plover, woodcocks, quailles, or any such like, the nurse must be partner with her in all these dainties: neither yet will that suffice, but during the whole moneth, she must pilfers away the ginger, the nutmegs and ginger, with all other spices that comes under her keeping. putting the poore man to such expence, that in a whole yeare he can scarcely recouer that one moneths charges. When euery day after her lying downe will sundry dames visit her, which are her neighbours, her kinswomen, and other her speciall acquaintance, whom the godman must welcome with all cheerefullnesse, and be sure there be some dainties in store to set before them: where they about some three or foure houres (or possibly halfe a day) will sit chatting with the Child wife, and by that time the cups of wine haue merily trolld about, and halfe a dozen times moylned their lips with the sweet iuice of the purple grape: They begin thus one with another to discourse; Good Lord neighbour, I maruaile how our gossip Frees doth, I haue not seene the good soule this many a day.

Oh God helpe her, quoth another, for she hath her hands full of worke, and her heart full of heauinesse: While she bandages all the woeke at home, her husband, like an vnchrist, neuer leaues running abroad to the Tennis court, and Dicing houses, spending all that euer he hath in such leauid sport: yea and if that were the worst it is well: But heare you Gossip, there is another matter spoyles all, he cares no more for his wife then for a dog, but keeps queanics euen vnder her nose. Iesu! saith another, who would thinke he were such a man, he be haues himselfe so orderly and chastly, to all mens sights? Woe, hold your peace Gossip (saith the other) it is commonly seene, the
will

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Will some eates by all the daffe, he carries a smoth countenance, but a corrupt conscience: That I knowe F. well enough, I will not say he lones mistresse G goe to Gossip I dinke to you. Pea and saith another, there goes soule lies if G. himsele lones not his maide N I can tell you their mouthes will not be stopp with a bushell of wheat that speake it. Then the thirde fetchling a great sigh, saying, by my truth such an other bold Bettresses haue I at home: for neuer giue me credit Gossip, if I toke her not the other day in close conference with her master, but I thinke I best waddels my maide in such sort, that she will haue small lik to doe so againe. Nay Gossip (saith another) had it bene to me, that should not haue serued her turne, but I would haue turned the queane out of doores to picke a Wallet: for wat yo wat Gossip? it is ill setting fire and flaxe together: but I pray you tell me one thing, when saw you our friend mistresse C: now in god sothe she is a kind creature, and a very gentle Peate: I promise you I saw her not since you and I dranke a pinte of wine with her in the fish market. (O Gossip saith the other) there is a great change since that time, for they haue bene faine to payne all that euen they haue, and yet God knowes her husband lies still in prison. O the passion of my heart (saith another) is all their great and glorious Hew come nothing: god knowd what a world to is this? Why Gossip (saith another) it was neuer like to be otherwise, for they loued ouer to goe fine, and fare daintily, and by my faith Gossip, this is not a world for those matters, and thereupon I dinke to you. It is commonly their communication, where they finde cheare according to their choyce. But if it happen contrarie, that they find not things in such plentie, and god order as they would wish, then one or other of them will talke to this effect: Trust me Gossip I maruell much, and so doth also our other friends, that your husband is not ashamed to make such small account of you, and this your sweet child. If he be such a niggard at the first, what will he be by that time he hath due or six: it doth well appeare he beares but little loe to you: whereas you boughsasing to match with him, hath done him

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more credit then euer had any of his kindred. Before God, saith another, I had rather see my husbands eyes out then he should serue me so: therefore if you be wise bles him not to it: neither in this sort let him tread you vnder foote: I tell you it is a foule shame for him, and you may be well assured sith he begins thus, that hereafter he will bles you in the same order, if not worse. In good sooth saith the third, it seemes very strange to me, that a wise woman, and one of such parentage as you are, who as all men knowes is by blood farre his better, can endure to be thus bled by a base companion: Blame vs not to speake good Gospel, for I protest the wrong that he doth you, doth likewise touch vs, and all other good women that are in your case.

This Child-wife hearing all this, begins to weepe, saying; Alas Gospel, I know not what to doe, or how to please him, he is so diuerse and wayward a man, and besides, he thinks all too much that is spent. (Gospel he is saith one) a badde and a naughtie man, and so it is well seene by your visage. All my Gospel here present can tell, that when I was married to my husband, enery one said that he was so hartsie and hard to please that he would kill me with griefe: And indeed I may say to you, I found him crabbed enough: for he began to take vpon him mightily, and thought to haue wrought wonders, yet I haue used such meanes, that I haue tamed my young maister, and haue at this present brought him to that passe, that I dare sweare he had rather lose one of his topknots then Rangle with me: I will not denie but once or twice hee beate me shrewdly, which I God-wot being young and tender tooke in gracious part, but what he got by it, let my Gospel I report, who is yet a woman liuing, and can tell the whole storie: to whom my good man within a while after said, that I was past remedie, and that he might sooner kill me, then doe any good by beating me, (and by these ten bones so he should) but in the end I brought the matter so about, that I got the byle into my owne hands, so that I may now say, I doe what I list: for be it right or wrong, if I say it, he will not gainsay it, (for
by

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By this Golde on my Finger, let him doe what he can I will be sure to haue the last word: so that in very deed, if that ~~Women~~ be made vnderlings by their Husbands, the fault is their owne: For there is not any man al liue, (be he neuer so churlish) but his Wife may make him quiet and gentle enough. If she haue any wit; And therefore your God man serues you but well enough, with you will take it so.

Welcume me Gossip (saith another,) were I in your case, I would giue him such welcume, at his comming home, and ring such a peale of badde wordes in his eares, that he should haue small loy to stay the hearing,

Thus is the poore Man handled behind his backe, whiles they make no spare to helpe away with his good Will and Sugar, (which he hath prepared,) whom they soz his kinnesse thus ingratefully requite: Yea and now and then hauing their bzaines well beated, they will not sticke to saunt him to his face: Accusing him of little Loue, and great unkindnesse to his Wife

Now it doth many times so chaunce, that he hauing beene swyth to prouide such meates as he would haue, he commeth home (perhappes at midnight,) and befoze hee sitteth doونه to rest himselfe, hath a very earnest desire to know how his Wife doth, and perchance being loath to lye abzoab, because of Cypence, tranalles the later, that he may reach to his owne house; where (when he is once come,) hee asketh the Chamber-maide, or else the Purse, how his Wife doth: they hauing their Errand befoze giuen them by their Mistresse, answeres, shee is very ill at ease, and that since his departure she tasted not one bit of meate, but that towards the Euening she beganne to be a little better, all which he meere Lyes. But the Poore man hearing these wordes, grienes not a little, though he be all to hemopide, weary and wet, hauing goue a long tourney, through a badde and filthie way, vpon some ill pated trotting Fade, and it may bee is falling too, yet will he neither cate nor drinke, nor (so much as once sit doونه) till he haue seene his Wife. When the prattling Idle Purse, which is not to learne to exploite such a peece of seruise, begins to looke verie heauily

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heavily, and to sigh inwardly as though her Mistresse had been that day at the point of Death, which he seeing, was the more earnest to visit his wife: whom at the entrance of the Chamber, he heares her groining to her selfe, and comming to the Beddes side, kindly sits downe by her, saying how now my sweet heart, how doest thou? *Ab Husband* (saith she) I am very ill, now was I neuer so sicke in my life as I have bene this day. *Alas good soule* (saith he) I am the more sorrie to heare it. I pray thee tell me where lie thy paine? *Ab Husband* (quoth she) you know I haue bene weake a long time, and not able to eate any thing. *Wife* (quoth he) why did you not cause the Purse to boyle you a Capon, and make a messe of good Broath for you? *Do thee* did (saith his wife) as well as she could, but it did not like me God wote, and by that meanes I haue eaten nothing. Since the broath which your selfe made me: Oh me thought that was excellent good.

Wife (saith he) I will presently make you some more of the same, and you shall eate it for my sake. *With all my hart* good Husband (saith she) and I shall thinke my selfe highly beholding vnto you. Then trudgeth hee into the Kitchen, there piags hee the Cooke, burning and bzooping himselfe ouer the fire hauing his eyes ready to be put out with smoake, while hee is busie in making the Broath: what time hee chides with his Maides, calling them beasts and baggages, that knowes not how to doe any thing; Not so much as make a little broath for a sicke body, but he must be faine to doe it him selfe. Then comes downe *Mistris Purse* as faine as a farthing Fiddle, in her petticoate and Rirtle, hauing on a white wast-coate, with a flaunting cambzicke ruffe about her necke, who like a Doctor in Faculty, comes thus vpon him. *Wol Lord Wy.* what paines you take, here is no bodie can please our *Mistresse* but your selfe: I will assure you (on my credite) that I doe what I can, yet for my life, I cannot I, any way content her. *Poisoner*, here came in *Mistresse Cot.* and *Mistresse Con.* who did both of them what they could to haue your *Wife* eate something; Nevertheless all that they did, could not make her taste one spoonfull of any thing all this luse-long day: I know not what she

ayles,

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ples; I haue kept many Women in my time, both of w^oship and credit, (simple though I stand heere,) but I neuer knew any so weake as she is; I, I (quoth he) you are a company of cunning Cookes, that cannot make a little Broath as it should be. And by this time the broath being ready, he brings it straight to his Wife, comforting her with many kind words, praying her to eat for his sake, or to take a spoonfull or twaine, which she doth, commending it to the Heavens, affirming also, that the Broath which the others made had no good taste in the world, and was nothing worth. The good man hereof being not a little p^{ro}u^{er}, biddes them make a good fire in his Wives chamber, charging them to tend her well. And hauing giuen this direction, hee gettes himselfe to Supper, with some cold meat set befoze him, such as the Collips left, or his Purse could spare, and hauing this short pittance hee goes to Bedde full of care.

The next morning he gets him by betimes, and comes vnto kindly to know how his Wife doth, who presently pays him in the mouth with a smooth Lye; saying, that all night she could take no rest till it grew towards the morning, and then she beganne to feele a little more ease, when God knowes she neuer slept more soundly in all her life. Well Wife, (said the good man,) you must remember that this night is our Collips Supper, and they will come hither with many other of our Friends, therefore we must provide some good thing for them; Especially because it is your W^ol^litting, and a fortnight at the least since you were brought to Bedde; but good Wife, let vs goe as nere to the world as we may; seeing that our great charge doth every day increase, and money was neuer so ill to come by.

She hearing him to say so, begins to pout, saying; would for my part I had dyed in Trussell, and my poore Infant bene strangled in the Birth, so should you not be troubles with vs at all, nor haue cause to repine so much at our spending: I am sure there is neuer a Woman in the world, that in my case hath worse keeping, or is lesse chargeable, yet let me pinch and spare, and soe what I can, all is thought too much that I haue: Trussell mee I care not a strawe whether you prouides me any

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thing or no, although the sorrow bee mine, the shame will bee yours, as yesterday for example: I am sure here came in above a dozen of our Neighbours and Friends, of more kindenesse to see me, and know how I did, who by their countenance and comming did you greater credite then you deserue: But God knowes what entertainment they had, hauing nothing in the house to set befoze them, which made me so much ashamed, that I knew not what to say: He tell you what, befoze God I may boldly speake it, (for I haue seene it,) that when anyone of them Lyes in, their very Seruants haue better fare then I my selfe haue had at your handes, which they seeing (betwixt themselves yesterday) when they were here, did most cunningly floute both you and me for their entertainment, I haue not (as you know) lye in above fiftene dayes, and can yet scant stand on my legs, and you thinke the time too long, till I be moping about the house (to catch my bane,) as I feare I haue done already, Tell me Wife (qu. he) you mistake me greatly, for no man in the world can bee more kind to his Wife, then I haue bene to you. Kind to me (quoth she) by the masse that you haue with a marren; No doubt but I haue had a sweet messe of cherishing at your handes, but I see your disste well enough, you gape euery day for my death, and I would to God it were so for mee: The month indeed is halfe expired, and I feare the rest will come, befoze wee be ready for it: My Sister S. was here no longer agoe then to day, and askt if I had euer a new Colone to be Churched in, but God wote I am farr enough from it, neither doe I desire it, though it be a thing which ought both by reason and custome to be obserued.

And because it is your pleasure, I will rise to morrow, what chance soeuer befall, for the worst is, I can but lose my life: sal well may I gather by this, how you will vse me hereafter, and what account you would make of me, if I had nine or ten children, but God forbid it should euer come so to passe, I desire rather to be rid of my life, and so to shunne the shame of the world, then long to liue with such an vnkind churle. How verily wise (saith the God man) I must needs blame your impatience, for growing so cholleriske without cause. Without cause (quoth she)

she?) Doe you thinke I haue no iust cause to complaine? I
 will assure you there is neuer a woman of my degree, that
 would put by the intollerable iniuries that I haue done, and
 dayly doe, by meanes of your hoggish conditions. Well
 wife saith the good man, yee as long as you list, and rise when
 you will, but I pray you tell me how this new gowne may
 be had, which you so earnestly ask for? By my faith (quoth
 she) you say not well, for I aske nothing at your hands, nei-
 ther would I haue it though I might: I thanke God I haue
 gownes enough already, and sufficient to serue my turne,
 and you know I take no delight in garish attire, for I am
 past a girle, but it makes me smile to see what a shew of
 kindnes you would faine make: Fye on this dissembler,
 you can cog and flatter as well as any man in this towne,
 and still little thinke they that see you abrood, what a di-
 uell you are at home: for what with your crooked quali-
 ties, with topling, moping, carking and caring, and be-
 ing beside broken with Child bearing, my countenance is
 quite changed, so that I looke already as withered, as the
 barke of an Elder bough: There is my Cousen T. T. who
 when I was a little girle, was at womanes estate, and in the
 end married Master H with whom she leads a Ladies
 life, looking so young and lustie, that I may seme to be
 her mother: I, I, such is the difference twixt a kind, and
 an vnconscience husband, and who knowes not but he was
 a suter to me, and made many a iourney to my fathers
 house for my sake, and would so faine haue hid me, that
 while I was to marrie, he would not match himselfe with
 any: but so much was I belov'd, that after I had once seene
 you, I would not haue changed for the best Lord in the land,
 and this I haue in recompence of my loue and loyalty, Goe to
 wife (saith he) I pray you leaue these lauish speeches, and let
 vs call to minde where we may best take by cloth for your
 gowne: for you see, such is our weake estate, that if we should
 rashly lay out that little money which is in the house, we
 might possibly bee vnprovided of all other necessities:
 Therefore whatsoeuer should chaunce hereafter, it is best to
 keepe

The Foxe
 will eat ne
 Grapes.

No more
 like the
 woman I
 was, then
 an apple is
 like an Oye-
 ster.

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keepe something againſt a rainyday : And againſt you knowe
 within theſe eight or nine dayes, I haue ſixe pounds to pay
 to Maſter P. which muſt be done there is no ſhift, otherwiſe
 I am like to ſuſtaine trebble damage. Tuff (quoth he) what
 talke you to me of theſe matters : Alas I aſke you nothing
 I would to God I were once rid of this trouble : I pray you
 let me take ſome reſt, for my headakes (God help me as it
 would goe in peece) I wis you ſele not my paine, and you
 take little care for my grieſe : Wherefore I pray you ſend
 my Goffips word that they may not come, for I ſele my
 ſelfe very ill at eaſe. Dotſo (quoth he) I will neither breake
 ruſtome, nor ſo much as gaineſay their counteſſes offer,
 they ſhall come ſure, and be entertained in the beſt man-
 ner I may. Well (quoth he) I would to God you would
 leane me, that I might take a little reſt, and then doe as
 you liſt. Upon theſe ſpeeches the Maſter ſtraight ſteppes
 in, and roundes her maſter in the eare. I pray you Sir
 doe not force her to many wordes, for it makes her head
 light, and doth great harme to a woman in her caſe, eſpe-
 cially her bzaines being ſo light for want of ſleepe : and be-
 ſides, ſhe is God knowes, a woman of a tender and choyce
 complexion. and with that ſhe bzawes the Curtaines about
 the bed. Thus is the poore man held in ſuſpence till the next
 day that the Goffips come, who will play their parts ſo kind-
 ly, and gaule him ſo to the quicke with their quibs and taunts,
 that his courage will be wholly quailde, and he ready (if they
 ſhould bid him, like the prodigall child, even to eate draſſe with
 the hogges) rather then he would diſpleaſe them. What to pro-
 ceede, he in the meane while is double diligence, to provide all
 things againſt their comming, according to his abilitie, and
 by reaſon of his wines wordes, he buyes moze meate, and pre-
 pares a great deale better cheare then he thought to haue
 done. At their comming he is readie to welcome them with
 his Cap in hand, and all the kindneſſe that may be ſhewed.
 When doth he trudge bare-headed by and downe the houſe,
 with a chearefull countenance, like a good ſtill, fit to beare the
 burthen, he bzings the Goffips by to his wife, and comming
 ſtill

first to her himselfe, he tels her of their comming. Itwils (quoth she) I had rather they had kept at home, and so they would too, if they knew how little pleasure I take in their comming. Say I pray you wife (saith he) giue them good countenance, seeing they be come so; good will: with this they enter, and after many small greetings, with much gossip ceremonies, downe they sit and there spend the whole day, in breaking their fastes, dining, and in making an after noones repast: besides their pettie suppers at her beds side, and at the cradle, where they discharge their parts so well, in helping him away with his good Wine and Sugar, that the poore man comming oft to cheare them, doth well perceiue it, and græues inwardly thereat, howsoeuer he couers his discontent with a merrie countenance. But they not caring how the game goes, take their penitworths of that cheare which is befoze them, neuer asking how it comes there, and so they merily passe the time away, prattling and tattling of many good matters. Afterward the poore man trots by and downe anew, to get his wife the foresaid gowne and all other things thereto sutable, whereby he sets himselfe soundly in debt: sometimes he is troubled with the childs bawling: sometimes he is bawld at by the nurse: then his wife complaines, that she was neuer well since she was brought to bed, then must he cast his cares anew, deuising by what meanes to discharge his debts and lessen his expences: then resolues he to diminish his owne port, and augment his wines brauerie, he will goo all the yeare in one sute, and make two paire of shoes serue him a twelue-moneth, keeping one paire for holy daies, another for working daies, and one hat in thre or foure yeares. Thus accoording to his owne rash desire, he is by to the cares in Iobs pound, and so; all the woe and wretchednes that he hath felt, he would not yet be out againe, but doth then willingly consume his selfe in continuall care, sorrow and trouble, till death doth set him free.

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CHAP. IIII.

The Humour of a woman that hath a charge of children.

Being ty-
rod with
scolding,
as a hack-
ney lade
with tra-
uell.

The next Humour that is by nature incident to a woman, is, when the husband hath bin married nine or ten yeares, hath five or six children, hath passed many euill dates, banquet nights, and troubles aforesaid, hath his lustie youthfulness spent, so that it is now high time for him to repent: But such is his grosse folly that he cannot, and such his dullness, though the continuall brayations, which haue tamed and wearied him, that he cares not whatsoeuer his wife saith or doth, but is hardened like an old Ass, which being bled to the whip will not once mend his pace be he lashed neuer so much: The poore man seeth two or three of his daughters marriage-able, which is some knowne by their wanton-trickes, their playing, dauncing, and other youthfull toys, but he keepe them backe, hauing perhaps small commings in, to keepe, maintaine, and furnish them as they loke for, with gownes, kettles, linnen, and other ornaments, as they should be for thier causes. First, that they may be the sooner sued vnto by lustie gallants: Secondly, because his denying hereof, should nothing auails: for his wife which knowes his daughters humours by her owne, when she was of the like yeares, will see that they shall want nothing: Thirdly, they peraduenture, bearing right womens mindes, if their father keepe them short, will finde some other friends that shall affoord it them. The poore man being thus perplexed on all sides, by reason of the excessive charges which he must be at, will(as it is likely) be but honestly attired himselfe, not caring how he goes so he may rabbe out, be it neuer so barely, and wouldt glad to scape so: But as the Fish in the Ponde, which would also thinke himselfe well, though wanting former libertie, if he might be suffered to continue, is cut off befoze his time: So is likewise this poore man serued, being once

once plunged in the perplexing Ponde, or rather (Ponde of
Clocke and House-keeping: for whosoever when hee con-
siders the aforesaid charges and troubles, hee begins to haue no
loy of himselfe, and is no more moued then a tyred Jade,
which forceth not for the spurres: Yet for the furnishing of his
Wife and Daughters, so that hee may haue peace at home, and
enjoy an easie bondage, hee must trudge by and downe earlie
and late about his businesse, in that course of life which he pro-
fesseth;

Sometimes he iourneys thirtie or forty miles off, about his
affaires: Another time, twice so farre to the Tearme or Wifes,
concerning some old matter in Law, which was begunne by
his Graund father, and not yet towards an end, hee pulles on
a paire of Shoes of seuen yeares old, which haue bene cobled
so oft, that they are now a scote twofold for him, so that the
toppe of the Shoe reaches no further then the calfe of his legge,
he hath a paire of Spurres of the old making, whereof the one
wants a Rivell, and the other for want of Leathers, is faste-
ned to his foote with a point: Hee putteth a laced Coate on his
backe, which he hath had sixe or seuen yeares, which he neuer
woze but vpon High-dages, whose fashion is growne cleane
out of request, by reason of new inuented Garments; what-
soeuer sports or pleasures he lights on (by the way on his iour-
ney, he takes no loy in them, because his minde is altogether
on his troubles at home, hee sares hard by the way, as also his
poore Horse, (if he haue one) his man followes him in a turnde
sute, with a sword by his side, which was found vnder a hedge
at the Siege of Bullen; he hath a coate on his backe, which eu-
ery man may know was neuer made for him, or hee not present
when it was cut out; for the wings on his Shoulders comes
downe halfe way his arme, and the skyrtes as much belowe his
waiste: To be short, the poore man goeth every way as neare
as may be, for he remembers at what charges he is at home,
and knowes not what it will cost him, in feeding his Councel-
lozs, Attourneys, and Petty-foggers, which will doe nothing
without present pay: he dispatcheth his businesse speedily, and
blys him home with such hast, to avoid greater charges, that he

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rests no where by the way. And hereby it channeth that manie times he comes home at such an houre, as is as neare morning as to night, and findes nothing to eate, for his Wife and Seruants are in bed, all which hee takes patiently, being now well bled to such entertainment : Surely for my part, that God sends such aduersitie and distresse to those only whose good and milde nature, he knowes to be such, that they will take all things in good part.

But to proceede, it is very likely that the poore man is very weary, his heart heauy, by reason of the care and thought which he hath of his businesse ; and it may be (hee lookes to be welcome to his owne house, and there to refresh himselfe) howsoener he forgets not his former estate. But it falls out otherwise, for his wife begins to chide; whose words carries such a sway with the seruants, that whatsoener their Maister saith, they make small account of it ; but of their Mistresse command any thing it is presently done, and her humour followed in all things, else must they packe out of seruice : so that it bootes not him to bid them doe any thing, or rebuke them for not doing it : And his poore man that hath bene with him, dares not likewise open his mouth to call for any Victuals to comfort himselfe, or for the Horses, least they should suspect him to be of his Masters faction, (who being wise, and of a quiet and milde nature) is loth to make any stirre, or bryde any dissquietnes in the house, and therefore takes all in good part, and sits him downe farre from the Fire though hee be very colde : But his wife and children stand round about it, but all their eyes are cast on her, who lookes on her Husband with an angrie countenance, not caring to prouide ought for his supper; but contrariwise taunts him with sharpe and shrewish speeches, whereto for the most part, he answeres not a word, but sometimes (perhaps being bryged, though hunger or wearines, or the unkindnes of his wife) hee doth thus utter his minde. Well wile, you can looke well enough to your selfe, but as for me, I am both wearie and hungry, hauing neither eaten nor drunke all this day, and being beset with the very skinne, yet you make no reckoning to prouide any thing for my supper.

Ab(quoth shee) you doe well to beginne first, leaſt I ſhould, which haue moſt cauſe to ſpeake: Haue you not done very well (thinke yee) to take your man with you, and leaue me no bodie to white the Cloathes : Now beſore God, I haue had moze loſſe in my Linnen, then you will get this Twelue-month. Moreover, you ſhatte the Wenne-roſſe doe very well, did you not? when the Foxe got in, and ate bp foure of my beſt byrde- Wennes, as you (to your coſt will ſone finde) by the maſſe : if you liue long, you will be the pozeſſ of your Linne. Well wiſe (ſaith the God-man) ble no ſuch wordes I pray you, God be thanked I haue enough, and moze ſhall haue when it pleaſeth him : and I tell ye, I haue good men of my Linne. But quoth ſhee, I know not where they bee, nor what they are worth. Well (ſaith he) they are of credite and abilitie to. But ſoꝛ all that (quoth ſhee) they doe you ſmall good. As much good (ſaith hee) as any of yours. As any mine (ſaith ſhee,) and that ſhe ſpake with ſuch a high Note, that the houſe rung withall, ſaying : If Cockes-ſoule, were it not ſoꝛ my Friends, you would doe but ſozily.

Well good wiſe (ſaith hee,) Let vs leaue this talke : Nay, (ſaith ſhee) if they heard what you ſaide, they would anſwere you well enough. The good-man holds his peace, fearing leaſt ſhee ſhould tell them, being of greater abilitie then hee was, and beſides, becauſe hee was loth that they ſhould be offended with him. Then one of the Childzen falls a crying, and he perſaps, which his Father loued beſt, thereupon the Mother preſently toke a rodde, turned bp the Childes taile, and whipt him well ſauoiedly ; and the moze to deſpight and anger her Husband, then ſoꝛ ought elſe. The good-man being herewith ſome- what moued, wills her to leaue beating the Child, ſhe wing by his bended browes that hee was not a little angrſe at her doings. Now gyp with a murren (quoth ſhee) you are not troubled with them, they coſt you nothing, but it is I that haue all the paines with them night and day. Then comes in the Purſe with her herdſte, and thus ſhee beginnes, ſaying: O Sir, you know not what a hand ſhee hath with them, and we alſo that tend them. Then comes in the Chamber-maide with her

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fine Cages : In good faith say, it is a shame for you, that at your coming home, when all the whole house should be glad thereof, that you should contrariwise put it thus out of quiet; Health be, (is it that make this stirre?)

Then is the whole Household against him, when hee seeing himselfe thus baited on all sides, (and the match so vnequall,) gets him to Bed quietly without his Supper, all wette and durtle; or if he doe suppe he hath but thine fare: and being in Bedde, where hee should take his rest, hee is so disquieted with the Childzen, whom the Nurse and his Wife (both on purpose set on crying,) to anger him the more, that for his life he cannot aspe one winke.

Thus is he vexed with continuall troubles, wherewith he seeketh to be well pleased, and would not though he might be free from them, but doth therein spend his miserable and unhappy life.

CHAP. V.

The humor of a Woman that marries her
inferior by Birth.

A Woman inclined to another kinde of humour, which is, when the Husband hath bene married, and hath passed so many troubles, that he is wearied therewith, his lustie youthfull blood growne colde, is matched with a Wife of betler birth then himselfe, and perhaps yonger, both which things are very dangerous, and no wise man should take his owne spoyle, by wrapping himselfe in either of those bōds, because they are so repugnant, that it is both against reason and nature to accord them. Sometimes they haue Childzen, sometimes they haue none; yet this notwithstanding, the Wife can take no paines; yet must be maintained according to her degree, to the Husbonds exceeding charges: for the furnishing whereof, the poorer Man is forced to take extreme toyle and paines, and yet for all this, thanks God, for vouchsafing him so great a grace, as to be match with her: If now and then they grow to hot wordes together (as oft it happens) then presently in vpbraiding and
mena-

menacing sozt she tels him, that her friends did not match her to him to be his budge, and that she knowes well enough of what image she is come, and will brag withall, that when she list to write to her friends and kinsmen they will presently fetch her away. Thus both she keeps him in awe, and in a kinde of servitude, by telling him of them, who would perhaps haue matcht her better, and not with him, but soz some priuate scape that she hath had befoze, whereof the poze soule knowes nothing, or if perhaps he hath heard some inkling thereof, yet because he is simple, the credit that he might giue thereunto is quickly dashed, by a contrarie tale of others soboynd by them, who perchance will not sicke to sweare that this is a slander raised by euill tongues, and sozged malitiously against her, as the like is done against many other good women, whose good names are wronged, and brought in question by bad persons on their tipling bench, because themselves cannot obtaine their purpose of them: notwithstanding, if her husband be not able to maintaine her according to her minde, then will she be sure to haue a friend in Roze, that shall affozd it her: if her husband deine it, and in the end shee remembers that such a Gentleman at such a feast proffered her a diamond, or sent her by a messenger some 20, or thirtie crownes, which she as then refused, but now purposeth to giue him a kind glance, to renew his affection, who concealing some better hope, and meeting some after with her chamber-maid, as she is going about some busines, calls to her. saying; Sister, I would faine speake with you. Sir quoth she, say what you please. You know (quoth he) that I haue long loved your mistress, without obtaining any fauour: but tell me I pray you, did she neuer speake of me in your hearing? In saith he (saith she) neuer but well: I dare sweare she wishes you no harme. Befoze God sister saith the Gentleman, if you will shew me some kindnes herein, and doe my commendations to your mistress, assuring her of my lone and loyalty, it shall bee woorth a new gowne vnto you, meane while take this in earnest, with that he offers her a peece of gold: She then making a low curse, sayth: Sir, I thanke you soz your good.

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A Maid fit
for such a
Mistress.

god will, but I will not take it. By my faith saith he, but you shall, and with that he seizes it on her, adding these words: I pray you let me teare from you to morrow morning. She being glad of such a bottie, byes her home, and tels her mistress how she met with a Gentleman that was in a passing good haine: and to be short, after some questions asked by her mistress, it appears to be the very same man whom she would faine intrap. I tell thee saith she to her maide, if he be as kind as he is proper, he were worthie to be any womans loue. Welcome me mistress (saith the maide) his very countenance shewes that he is kind, it seemes that he was onely made for loue, and withall he is wealthie, and thereby able to maintaine her beantie, and her person in hauerie whom he affects. By this light (saith the mistress) I can get nothing of my husband. Yes moze doubtlesse you (saith the maide) to be so bled. Alas quoth she what should I doe, I haue had him so long, that I cannot now let my heart on any other. Tush (quoth the maide) it is a folly for any woman to set her heart so on any man, for you know they care not how they bled vs when they are once Lords ouer vs. Beside your husband though he would, yet cannot maintaine and keepe you according to your degree: but he of whom I speake will furnish and maintaine you gallantly what garments soener you will haue: and what colour and fashion soener you like best, you shall presently haue it, so that there want nothing else, saue onely a quaint excuse to my speaker, making him beloeue you had it by some other meanes. By my troth quoth her mistress, I know not what to say. Well mistress (saith the maide) aduise you well, I haue promised to giue him an answer to morrow morning. Alas (saith the other) how shall we doe? Tush mistress (answers the maide) let me alone: As I goe to morrow to the market I am sure he will watch to make with me, that he may know what newes, then I will tell him that you will not agree to his desire for feare of discredit, this will giue him a little hope, and so we shall fall into further talke, and I doubt not but to handle the matter well enough. According to promise

misser next morning to market she hies, somewhat more earlie
 then she was wont, and by the way she meates with this lustie
 gallant, who hath waited for her at least thre houres, he
 hath no sooner spyed her, but he presently makes towards her,
 and at her coming, thus salutes her: Sister, good morrow,
 what newes I pray, and how both your faire mistresse? I-
 faith sir (saith she) she is at home very pensive, and out of pa-
 tience, I thinke that neuer any woman had such a sroward
 husband. Ah villaine (saith he) the diuell takes him. Amen
 (saith the maide) for both my mistresse and all the servants
 are weari with tarring with him. Out on him I saue (saith
 he) but I pray you tell me what answer gaue your mistresse
 touching my sute? In faith (quoth she) I spake vnto her,
 but she would not agree thereunto, for she is wonderfully
 afraid to purchase her selfe discredit, and is besides plagued
 with such a sroward and suspitious husband, that although
 she were neuer so willing, yet could she not, being continu-
 ally watcht by him, his mother and brethren: I thinke on
 my conscience vnilesse that it were that she spake to you the
 other day, the poore woman talkt not with any man these
 foure moneths, yet she speakes very often of you, and I am
 well assured that if she would bend her minde to loue, she
 would chuse you before all men in the world, He being rai-
 shed with these words, replies thus: Sweet sister, I pray you
 be my friend herein, and I will alwaies rest at your command.
 In good faith (saith she) I haue done more for you already
 then euer I did for any man in my life. And thinke not (saith
 he) that I will be vniuersall of your kindnes, but what would
 you counsell me to doe? I faith sir (saith she) I thinke it best
 that you should speake with her your selfe, and now you haue
 an excellent opportunitie, for my master hath refused to giue
 her a gowne, whereat she stomes not a little, you shall doe
 well therefore to be to morrow at the Church, and there salute
 her, telling her boldly your desire: you may also offer her what
 you thinke good, but I know she will take nothing: marrie she
 will thinke the better of you, knowing thereby your frank-
 and beautifull nature, D (saith he) I would she would gladly
 take

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take that, which I would gladly bestow on her. Nay, answers then maide, I know she will not, for you neuer knew a more honest woman: but she tell ye, how ye may doe it afterwards: Looke to what ye purpose to bestow on her, you shall deliuer vnto me, I will doe my best to perswade her to take it, but I cannot assure you that I shall preuaile. Sorely sister (saith he) this is very good counsell: herewith all they part, and she returnes home, laughing to her selfe, which her mistresse seeing, demands of her the cause thereof. Parrie (saith the maide) this lustie Gentleman is all on fire, to morrow he will be at Church, purposing there to speake with you: now must you demaune your selfe wisely, and make very strange of it, but stand not off to much leaue you dismay him cleane: as you will not wholly grant, so must you leaue him with some hope. She, hauing her lesson thus taught her by her maide, gets her vp betimes the next morning, and to the Church she goes, where this amorous gallant hath awaited for her comming euer since foure a clocke. She being set in her pew, makes shew as of she were deuoutly at her prayers, when (God wot) her deuoting is bent to the seruice of another Saint; it were woorth the noting to see how like an image she sits: and yet for all her demurenes, she applies all her due senses, and that full zealously in this new humour of religion. As he stoyle, he steales vnto her, speaking vnto her, from the belfrey vnto her pew, and being come grates her after the amorous order, and from grating, he falls to courtting, whereto she both in no wise wold consent. Neither will she take ought that he offers, yet answers him after such a sort, that he both thereby assuredly gather that she loues him, and sticks onely for feare of discredit: wherent he is not a little locond, and hauing spent his time to so good a purpose, he takes his leaue, and she hasting home to her counsellor, acquaints her what hath passed betwene them. Who thereupon takes occasion to say thus: Mistresse, I know well that now he longs to speake with you, but at our meeting I will tell him that you will yeeld to nothing, for which I will saue my selfe sorrie: & I will adde withall, that my master is gone out of towne, and will appoint him:

him to come hither towards the Evening, with promise that I will let him in, and conuey him so secretly into your Chamber, that you shall know nothing thereof. At what time you must seeme to be highly offended, and if you be wise, you will make him buy his pleasure with some Cost, which will cause him to esteeme the more of you; tell him that you will cry out, and then doe you call mee: By handling him thus, I can assure you, that you shall get more of him, then if you had yeelded at the first. All this while I will haue in my keeping that which hee will giue you, for he hath appointed to deliuer it me to morrow, and I will make him believe, that you would by no meanes take it. But when the matter is brought to this passe, then will I make shew to offer you his gift befoze him, telling you, that he is willing to bestow it on you, to buy you a Cowne-cloth withall; Then must you chide, and seeme to be angrie with me for recet-ting it, charging me to deliuer it backe againe to him, but be sure I will lay it by safe enough. Well deuised wench (saith the Wifed) I am content it shall be so. This plot being thus laid,, the crafty wench goes presently to finde out this toly Gallant whose first woze is: What newes?

Now in good faith Wy, (saith shee,) the matter is no further sozwards, then if it were yet to beginne; yet because I haue medled so farre in it, I would be loth I should not bring it about, for I feare that shee will complaine of mee to her Husband and Friends: but if I could perswade her by any meanes to recelue your gifts, then out of question the matter were dispatcht: and in good faith Ile trie once more: I haue one good helpe, and that is this: my Maister (as I tolde you befoze) will not giue her a new Cowne, at which unkindenesse, shee stozmes mightily.

The hotte Loner hearing this, giues her presently twentie Crownes for her good will, wheredpon shee sprakes thus: I good faith Wy, I know not how it commeth to passe, but sure I am, I neuer did so much for any man befoze, as I haue done heerein for you: See see Wy, what launger I haue put my selfe in for your sake; For if my Maister should haue any inckling of it, I were utterly vndone: yet for you I will hazard

Better the
two yeeres
wages, and
soone got.

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As Lar-
mans lips.

a little further: I know she loves you well, and as god happe for my Maister is not now in towne, if you therefore will be about the dore towards fire of the Clocke at night I will let you in, and so conuey you secretly into my Mistres chamber, who only sleepe very soundly; so you know she is but young, being there I could with you goe to bed to her, and so the rest you need not (I trust) any more: I protest that I know no other meanes for the compassing of this matter, perhaps it will sadger: For it is a great matter, when a Louer and his Mistres are both together naked and in the darke, which doth helpe forward a Womans conceit, to that which in day time perhaps she would hardly grant. My sweet friend (god be) for this kindnesse my Purse shall be at thy command. As he thort, night comes, he is there according to promise, whom she straight conueyes into her Mistresses chamber; then he presently unclothes himselfe, and steps softly into her Bedde, and being once in, he begins to embrace her: hereat (she that seemed till then asleepe) starts vp on a sudden, and with a fearful voice asks who is there: It is I sweet Mistres (saith he) feare nothing. Ah (god be) thinks you to procure this? No, no, & with that she makes as though she would rise, and call her maid, who answers not a word; but alas for pittie, like an vndutifull seruant leaves her at her greatest need. She therefore (good woman) seeing that she is forsaken; sayes with a sigh, Ah me, I am betraide: then begin they a stout battel, he bying his aduantage, she faintly resisting, but alas what can a naked woman doe against a resolute Louer? there is therefore no other remedie, but that at length (poore soule,) being out of breath with strining, she must needs yeelde to the stronger; shee would faine haue cried out (God wat) had it not bene for feare of discredit; for theraby her name might haue bin brought in question. therefore all things considered, she doth vntwillingly God knowes, let him supplie her husbands place, garnishing his temple, for pure good will, with Aasons badge. Thus hath she got a new Gowne, which her good man refused to giue her, to please whose eyes, and keepe him from suspition, she gets her mother in her husbands sight, to bring home the cloth and giue it her, as though it were her owne; and least also she should suspect any

any thing, she makes her believe she bought it with the money which she got by selling adde commodities which her Husband knew not of; But it may be (and oft happens so) that the Wo-ther is plying to the whole matter, and a furtherer thereof: After this Downe she must have another, and two or three like embrothered gyddles, and other such costly knacks, which the Husband seeing, will in the end suspect somewhat, and begin to doubt of his wifes honesty, or shall perhaps receive some advertisement thereof from some Friend or Kinsman; so no such matter can be long kept close, but in the end will by some means or other be made knowne and discovered: Then falls he into a frantick Veine of Zealousse, watching his Wifes close packing, and so for the better finding of it out, he comes home on a sudden about midnight, thinking then to discover all, and yet perhappes may misse his purpose. Another time coming in at unawares he seeth some thing that he likes not, and then in a Furie falls on railing, but be sure that she answers him home, not yielding an inch unto him; for besides the advantage of the sight which is wrought by her owne trocke weapon (her Tongue I meane) she knowing withall that she is of better birth, hits him in the teeth therewith, and threatens him to tell her Friends how hardly he hath used her. To be short, the worse man shall never have good day with her, but either with thought of her incontinencie, or if he speake to her, he is boyme downe with scolding lies, and despised of his owne Servants; his State runnes to ruine, his wealth decays, his body dyes up, and weares away with griefe; He growes desperate and carelesse. Thus is he plunged in Robb pould, wearied in a lousie of discontente, wherein notwithstanding he takes delight, having no desire to change his State, but rather if he were out, and knew what would follow, yet would he never rest till he had gotten in againe, there to spend and end (as now he must) his life in griefe and miserie.

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CHAP. VI.

The Humor of a Woman that strives
to master her Husband.

The next humor whereunto a Woman is addicted, is, when the Husband hath got a faire young Wife, who is proper and fine, in whome hee takes a great delight & yet perhaps she is bent altogether to crosse and thwart: the man being of a kind and milde nature, loving her entirely, and maintaines her as well as he can, notwithstanding her frowardness: It may be also that she hath care of his credits and honestie, and doth abhorre such leandness, as shee of whom we spake befoze did use, yet hath shee neuerthelesse an extreme desire of Dominatgntie, (which is knowne a common fault among Women) and to be her Husbonds commander, and a buie medler in his matters; be hee a Judge, a Nobleman, or Gentleman, she will take vpon her to giue sentence, and answer Suitors, and whatsoener she doth he must stand to it.

This is, (I say) a generall imperfection of Women, be they neuer so honestly, neuer so kindly bred, and haue neuer so much wealth and ease, to strue so; the Witches, and be in odde contrarie humours, of purpose to keepe her Husband in continual thought and care how to please her.

He gets him by betimes in the morning, leaning her in Bed, to take here ease, while shee stirres about the house and dispatcheth his busines, looke to the seruants that they loyter not, canseth Dinner to be made readie, the Cloth to be laide, and when all thinges are ready, he sends one to desire her to come downe, who brings backe answer that she is not disposed to Dine. He (saith he) I will neuer sit downe, nor eate a bit till she be here; He receiuing his second message by his Waide, or perhaps by one of his childzen, replies thus; Go tell him againe that I will not dine to day. He hearing this, is not yet satisfied, but sends likewise the third time, and in the end goes himselfe, and thus begins, Now now, what ayeles you Wife, that you will eate no meate?

meate? here to she answers not a word. The poore man marvels to see her in this melancholy dumps, (althought perhaps she hath plaide this pageant many times before) and blest all entreate he may to know of her the cause thereof: but in vaine, for indeed there is no cause at all, but onely a mere mockerie. Sometimes she will persist so obstinately in this humor, that for all the persuasions and kindnesse that he can use, she will not come. Sometimes it may be she will, and then hee must leade her by the hand like a bride, and set her chaire ready for her, meane while it is so long before he can get her downe, that the meate is cold when it comes to the table. Being set, she will not eate one bit, and he seeing that (like a kind Ass) will saile likewise: whereat she smiles inwardly, hauing brought him so to her bowe, first in crossing him, then in making him to saile from dinner: wherein (to say the truth) she hath reason, for what needes a woman to seeke his fauour, who both already loue her. and shew her all the kindnes that he can. Sometimes the good man ryding abroad about his businesse, meetes with two or thre of his friends, with whom perhaps he hath some dealings, and hath bene long acquainted with them: It may be also that he inuites them home to his house, as one friend will doe to another, and sends his man before to his wife to make all things ready in the best sort that she can for their entertainment: the poore serving-man gallops in such hast, that both himselfe and his horse is all on a sweate, when he comes home he doth his errand to his mistresse, telling her withall that the guests which his master brings are men of good account. Now by my faith (saith she) I will not meddle with it, he thinks belike that I haue nothing else to doe, but to dudge about to prepare banquets for his companions, he should haue come himselfe with a vengeance, and why did he not? Forsooth (saith the seruant) I know not, but thus he bad me tell you. Go to (saith she) you are a knaue that meddles in more matters then you haue thankes for. The poore fellow hearing this holds his peace, she in a faine sings by into her chamber, and which is worse, sends out her seruants, some one way, some another: as for her mayden, they haue their

their lesson taught them well enough, knowing by custome how to behaue themselves to weare their master well, he comes home to his aforesaid science, calls presently for some of his seruants: but one of the maides make answer, of whom he demaunds whether all things be ready: In good faith my mistresse is very sicke, and here is no body else can doe any thing: with that he being angry, leades his friends into the hall, or some other place according to his estate, where he findes neither fire made, nor cloath laid. Judge then in what a taking he is, although it may be that his friends perceiued by the sending of his man, that his commaundements were not of such force as an act of parliament. The good man being ashamed, calls and gapes first for one man then for another, and yet for all this there comes none, except it be the scullion or some chare woman, that doth vse his house, whom his wife hath left there of purpose, because she knew they could serue to doe nothing. Being herewith not a little moued, by he goes into his wines chamber, and thus speaks vnto her: Gods precious woman, why haue ye not done as I wilde ye? Why (saith she) you appoint so many things to be done that I know not what to doe. Before God (saith he) and with that scratches his head, you haue done me a greater displeasure then you thinke: these are the dearest friends that I haue, and now here is nothing to set before them. Why (quoth she) what would you haue me to doe? This if you cast your cards well, you shall finde that we haue no neede to make banquets: I would to God you were wiser, but sith you will needs be so lustie, even goe thorough with it your selfe on Gods name, for Ile not needle with it. But what the diuell ment ye (saith he) to send all the seruants abroad? Why (quoth she) what did I know that you should neede them now: yet did she know it well enough, and had of purpola sent them forth on sheelesse errands, the more to anger and despight him: who seeing that he can preuaile nothing, giues over talking to her, and gets him downe in a bitter chafe: for it may be that his guests be of such account, and he so much beholding vnto them, that he had rather

hane

Oh fetch
the Aqua
vita bottle
quickly.

hane spent a hundred crownes then it should so haue fallen out. But she cares not a whit, being well assured, that howsoeuer she thwarts him, he will hold his hands, and in scolding she knowes her selfe to be the better. To be short, the poore man being vexed with shame and anger, runnes by and downe the house, gets as many of his seruants together as he can : If his provision be but slender at home, he sends presently abroad, in the meane while he calles for a cleane towell, the best table cloath, and wrought napkins. But the maide answers him that hee can haue none. Then by to his wife goes he againe, and tels her that his friends doe intreate her to come downe and beare them companie, shewing her what a shame it is, and how discourteously they will take it if she come not : And finally, he besteth all the fairest speeches that he can to haue her come, and to wellicome and entertaine them for his credites sake. Say in faith (quoth she) I will not come, they are too great Rates for my companie, and no doubt they would scoorne a poore woman as I am : It may be she will goo, but in such sort, and with such a countenance, that he had bene better see him she had not come at all, for his friends will somewhat perceiue by her looks, and gesture, that howsoeuer they be wellicome to the good man, she had rather haue their come then their company. But if she refuse to come (as it is the moze likely) then will he aske her for the best towell, table-cloth and napkins. Napkins (quoth she) as though those that be abroad already be not good enough for greater and better men then they are : when my brother or any of my kinsmen come, which are I wis their equals in euery respect, they can be content to be serued with them : but were these your guests neuer so great, yet could I not now fulfill your request, though my life should lie on it : for since morning I haue lost my keyes of the great chest where all the linnen lies : I pray you bid the maide looke for them, for in good truth I know not what I haue done with them, and no maruell, for I haue so much to doe, that I know not how to bestir my selfe : well I wotte, I haue spoyled my selfe with continuall care and trouble,

Oh lyer,
lyer.

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Now in good faith (quoth he) you haue dyest me fairely, but it is no matter: Befoze God He bzeake open the chest. Now surely then (quoth she) you shall doe a great act, I would faine see you doe it, I would for my part you would bzeake all the chestes in the house. The poore man hearing her in these termes, knowes not well what to doe, but takes that which he next lightes on, and therfore shifts as well as he can: he causeth his guesstes to sit downe at the table, and because the bzeare then a bzoath is on tilt, and therfore not very good, he bids one of the seruants bzoach a new barrell and fill some fresh dzinke, but then there is neither tap nor spigget to be found, for his wife of purpose hath hidden them out of the way. Towards the end of the dinner he calls for chafe, and fruite, but there is none in the house, so that he is faine to send to the neighbours for the same, or else bee utterly destitute: meane while his boy being at the table with the guesstes, at last tels them how his mistresse laines her selfe sicke, because she is not pleased with their matters comming. Well when bed time comes, he can get no cleane sheetes nor pillow-bares, because forsooth the keyes are lost, so that they must be content to lie in those that be soule, and haue been long laine in. The next morning they get them gone betimes, saying by the good wiues countenance that they are nothing welcome. By the way their Lackies tell them what the Gentlemans boy reported, whereat they laught hartily, yet finde themselves agréed, holding neuer to be his guest any moze. The husband also, getting him vp betimes in the morning, goes presently to his wife, and thus begins: By Iesus wife, I muse what you meane to vse me thus. I know not how to lue with you. Then she replies saying: Now God for his mercy, am I so troublesome? God wot I am euere day (poore soule) troubled with keeping your hogs, your geese, your chickens, I must card, I must spin, & continuall keepe the house, looke to the seruants, and neuer sit still, but topling vp and downe to shorten my daies, and make me die befoze my time, and yet I cannot haue one houres rest, or quietnes with you, but you are alwaies bzauling, & doe nothing your selfe, but spend & wast your goods
and

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and mine with odde Companions. What odde Companions (saith he) as though you know not that these are such men, as can either much further, or much hinder me: It is a signe that you deale very well, that you must stand in distrust of such persons. Whereupon, she takes occasion to raile and scolde all the day long; the man being wearied with her wailewardnesse, and Age (being hasted with griefe and sorrow) both shalwaies ouer- take him. Briefly, he is in every respect wretched: but such is his follie, that he reckons his paines pleasure, and would not though he might be againe at libertie, out of Lobs Pound, or if he would it is now too late; so he must of force continue there, in Care, Thought, and Griefe, till Death make an end of him and them together.

CHAP. VII.

The humor of a couetous minded Woman.

The next humor belonging to a Woman is, when the Husband is matched to a modest civil woman, who is nothing given to that thwarting and crossing humour whereof I spake before. But be she good or bad, this is a generall rule many times hold and stedfastly believe that their owne Husbands are worst of all others. It oft happens that when they match together they are both young, & entertaine each other with mutual delights, so much as may be, so a yeare or two, or longer; till the vigour of youth grow cold. But the woman dwipes not so soone as the man; the reason whereof is, because she takes no care, thought, nor griefe, breakes not her sleepe, and troubles not her head at her dooty, but doth wholly addict her thoughts to pleasure and solace. I denie not, that when a Woman is with Child she findes many times great paines, and is often verie ill at ease, and at the time of her deliuerance, she is for the most part, not onely in exceeding paine, but also in no lesse danger of death: But all this is nothing to the Husbands troubles, in whose hands alone rests the whole charge, and waight of

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maintaining the house, and dispatching all matters, which is oftentimes intangled so with controuersies, and so thwarted with crosse fortune, that the Poore man is tormented with all vexation of minde.

Being thus wearied, & as it were worn away with continual griefe, troublous cogitations, toyle and trauell, haue no minde on any other pleasure; whereas she on the other side is as lustie as euer she was: meane while his stocke decays, and his state growes worse and worse: and as that diminisheth, so must he perforce, shorten her allowance, & maintenance, which is almost as great a Cozins to her, as the former. You may be well assured, that this change in him, makes her also change her countenance; from Mirth and cheerefulness, to lowering Melancholie, seeking occasions of disagreements, and blee them in such sort, that their former loue and kindnes was not so great, as are now their hatreds, larres, and discords. It doth also oftentimes happen, that the Woman by this meanes wastes and consumes all, giuing leauidly away her Husbands goods, which hee with great paines and cares hath gotten. The Good man, he goes euery way as weare as he can, and warily containes himselfe within his bounds, casting vp what his yearely Reuenues are, & what his gaine is by his profession, bee it Marchandize or other, and then what his expences be; which he finding greater then his commings in, begins to bite the lip, and becomes very penitue: his Wife and he bring afterwards priuate together in their chamber, he speaks thereof vnto her in this manner. In faith Wife, I much marvel how it comes to passe that our goods goe away thus, I know not how? I am sure I am as carefull as a man can be, I cannot finde in my heart to bestow a new coate on my selfe, and all to save moule. By my troth Husband (saith she) I lo as much maruell at it as you, I am sure for mine owne part, that I goe as nere in Housekeeping euery way as I can.

To be short, the poore man not doubting his wife, nor suspecting her ill carriage, after long care & thought, concludes, that the cause thereof is his owne ill Fortune, which keepe him downe, and croseth all his actions with contrary successe, but it may be that in process of time, some Friend of his (being more
clear-

clearly sighted in the matter, perceiving all goes not well, doth privately inform him thereof, who being astonished at his report, gets him home with a heaule countenance which the Wife seeing, & knowing herselfe guiltie, begins presently to doubt the woꝛd, and perchappes gesseth secretly at the outgoꝛs thereof but howsoever, shee will take such an oꝛder, that she will be sure to escape the hunt well enough.

The Good man will not presently make any woꝛdes hereof unto her, but deferre it a while, and tꝛide in the meane time, whether he can (of himselfe gather and further likelyhood; so; which purpose hee will tell her, that he must needs ride some tenne or twelue miles out of Towne, about some earnest business. Good saith husband (saith she) I had rather you should send your man, and stay at home your selfe. Not so wife (saith he) but I will be at home againe my selfe within these thꝛee or foure dayes, Having told her this tale, he makes as though he took his journey, but doth privately lye in Ambush in such a place, where hee may know whatsoeuer is done in the house: But the smelling his dist, sends woꝛd to her sweet heart, that he doe not come in any case, and all the time of his dissembled absence, she carries her selfe, that it giues no likelyhood of suspicion: which the Ally man seeing, comes out of his Ambush, enters his house, making as if then he were returned from his journey: and whereas before he loved, now hee shewes a chafefull countenance, being verily perswaded that his Friends report is a mere lye, and that hee thinks so much the rather, because she doth at his coming run to meete him, with such a shew of loue, and doth so embrace and kisse him, that it seems impossible so kinde a Creature should play false: But long after (being in Bedde together,) he thus speaks to her;

Wife, I haue heard reported certaine woꝛdes that like me not. Good saith husband (saith she) I know not what is the cause thereof: I haue noted this great while, that you haue bin very peniue, and was afraid that you had had some great losse, or that some of your Friends had bin kild, or taken by the Spaniards. No (saith he) that is not the matter, but a thing which grieues mee moꝛe then any such matter can doe. Now God see

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his mercy (quoth she) I pray you Husband let me know what it is. May wife (saith he) a friend of mine told me that you kept company with R R. the veriest Ruffian in all the Towne, and a many other matters he told me of you. Hereat she crossing her selfe in token of admiration (though smiling inwardly) replies thus: Dære Husband if this bee all, then I pray you giue ouer your penſiuenes: I would to God I were as free from all other sinnes as I am from that: Then laying one hand on her head, she thus procédes: I will not sweare any thing touching him, but I would the Diuell had all that is vnder my hand, if I euer touched any mans mouth sauing yours, or some of our Friends and Kinsmen, or such at least as you haue commanded me. Ha, ha, is this the matter? In trath I am glad that you haue tolde me; I had verily thought it had bene some greater matter, but I know well enough wherupon these speeches grew, & I would that you did likewise know, what moued him to speake them, I know you would not a little maruell because he hath alwaies professed such friendship towards you. In god saith I am nothing sojy that he hath awaked the sleeping Dog. What meane you by that word (qd he?) May (quoth she) be not desirous to know it, you shall know it some enough some other time. Wirlady (saith he) Ile know it now. By my troth Husband (saith she) I was oft wonderfully angrie when you brought him in hither, yet I sojbare to speak of it, because I saw you loued him so wel. But speake now (saith he) and tell me what the matter is? May nay (quoth she) it kills not greatly. Goe to wife (saith the good man) tell me, for I will know it. Then takes she him about the necke, and sweetly kissing him, saith thus; Oh my dære Husband, what Villaines are these that would ſeeme to abuse you, whom I honoz and loue aboue all men in the world. Well wife (saith he) I pray the tell me the man that so misuseth vs. In troth (quoth she) that vile dissembling Traitor, that flattering tell tale, that put this badde report in your eares, whom you esteeme so much: reposing such great confidence in him, he is the only man and none but he; that hath earnestly vjged me any tyme this two yeares to commit follie with him, but God (I praise him) hath giuen mee grace, both to refuse him, and his offers

Oh braue
dissembler.

Almost as
bad as the
dissembler.

The deuill
take the
lyer.

offers, although I were continually troubled and impossi-
 ned by him: I wis when you thought he came hither so of-
 ten for your sake, it was for this cause, for neuer a time
 that he came, but he was in hand with me to obtaine his filthy
 desire, till in the end I threatned to tell you of it, but I was
 loath to doe it, fearing to breed a quarrell betwene you, so
 long as I was sure to keepe him from doing you herein any
 iniurie: beside, I had still a good hope, that he would at
 length gine ouer, I wis it was no fault of his that he sped
 not. Gods for my life (saith the good man) being in a great
 rage, what a treacherous villaine is this? I would neuer
 haue suspected any such matter in him, for I durst haue put
 my life in his hands. By this light, husband (saith she) if
 euer he come moze within the doores, or if euer I may
 know that you haue any talke with him I keepe house no
 longer with you. Ah deere husband, and with that she
 clips and cols him againe about the necke, should I be so
 discipall as to abuse you in this sort? so sweet, so amia-
 ble, and so kind a man, who lets me haue my will in all
 things? God forbid I should liue so long to become a strum-
 pet now. But for Gods sake husband forbid him your
 house, with whom this knaue hath flaundered me withall,
 yet I would the diuell had me if euer he made such motion
 to me, neuertheless by Gods grace he shall not come hence-
 forth in any place where I am, and with that she be-
 ginneth to weepe, and hee (kind soke) doth appease and
 comfort her, promising and swearing, that he will doe as
 she will haue him, save onely that he will not forbid him
 his house, with whose companie the other had charged her,
 and withall hee bowes neuer to beleene any moze of these
 repoytes, nor so much as to harken to any such tales a-
 gaine, notwithstanding hee still feelles a scruple of suspicion
 in his conscience: Within a while hee beginneth to fall at
 defiance with his honest friend, who informed him of his
 wifes wantonnesse, and hee seemes to bee so deeply be-
 sorted with her loss, that you would say hee were
 transformed without incchantment, into Adams shape:

Thus is he
 board thro-
 rough the
 nose with
 a cushion.

As kind as
 a Seacrab,
 feazing on
 a dead car-
 rion.

his

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his charge of household still increaseth, he hath many childezen, and is perplexed an euery side: but his wife followes her pleasure farre moze then befoze, for though it be neuer so openly knowne, yet will no man tell him thereof, because they know that he will not belenue them (and which is moze ridiculous) he that abuses him most, shall be best wellcome vnto him of any. To be short, age will ouertake him, and perhaps penertie, from the which he shall neuer be able to raise himselfe. Doe here the great good and pleasure, that he hath gotten by entring into Iobbs pound, euery man mockes him, some saith it is pittie because he is an honest man: others say it is not a matter to be sorrowed for, sth it is the common rule of such. They of the better sort will coine his company: thus liues he in paine, griefe and disgrace, which he takes for great pleasure, and therein will continuethill death cut him off.

CHAP. VIII.

The humour of a woman that still desires to be gadding a broad.

The next humoꝝ of a woman, is, when the husband hath bene in Iobbs pound some tyme or sixe yeares, part wherof he hath spent in such pleasure as wedlocke doth at the first afford, but now the date of these delights is out, he hath perhaps some thide or foure childezen, but his wife is now big againe, and a great deale worse of this child then she was of any other. Whereat the poore man grones not a little, who takes great paines to get her that which she longes for: well, the time of her lying downe drawes nere, and she is wonderfully out of temper: so that it is greatly feared that she will hardly escape. When falls he on his knees and praies deuontly for him wife, how soone after is brought to bed, wherefoze he is not a little Recond, making sure account that God hath heard his praies. The Collips, kinswoman, and neighbours, come in troups to distill and reloyce for her safe deliuerie. She for her part wants no good cherishing, whereby she recouers her strength, and is as fresh and lustie as euer she was.

After

After her Churching, she is visited by some of her Neighbours, who also invite her or six others of her Neighbours and friends, who is received and feasted with all kinnes; which Banquet both perhaps cost her Husband more then would have kept the house a whole fortnight: Amongst other, she propounds a question, and makes a match to goe all together to a certaine Faire, which will be within ten dayes at such a place, to the which place they shall have a most brave and pleasant journey by reason of the faire weather, for they will alwayes conclude such an agreement in some of the best seasons of the yeare, and she takes upon her to make this motion, chiefly in regard of her Cossip, which was lately brought abed, that she may after her long paine and travaile somewhat recreate and refresh her selfe. But she answers her with thanks for her good will, saying she knows not how to get leave of her Husband. What (saith the other) that is the least matter of a thousand. Thus Cossip (saith another) stand not upon that, we will all goe and be merry, and wee will have with us my Cossip G. T. my Cossin H. S. though perhaps he be nothing kind to her: But this is their ordinary phrase, and they undertake this Journey, because they cannot so well obtaine their purposes at home, being too nere their Husbands noses. After this agreement, home she comes with a heavy countenance; The Good-man asketh what she aileth. Parry (quoth she) the Child is very ill at ease, (though he were in never better health since hee was bozne) his flesh burnes as though it were fire, and as the Purse tells me, he hath refused the Dugge these two dayes, although she durst not say so much till now. Hearing this, and thinking it true, is not a little sozr; goes present to see his Child, and weepes for pittie.

Well, Night comes, to bed they goe, and then she fetching a sigh, begins thus: Husband, I see you have forgotten me. How meane you that (saith hee?) Parry (quoth she) doe you not remember that when I was in Childbed you said, that if it pleased God that I escaped, I should goe to such a Faire, with my Cossips and Neighbours to make merrie, and chere by my selfe, but now I heare you not talke of it. In troth Wisse (saith hee) my head is troubled with so many matters, and such a deale of
G
business,

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 busines, that I haue no leasure to thinke on any thing else: but
 there is no time yet, yet, the Faire will not bee this soynight.
 By my troth (qd. he) I shall not be twel vnles I goe. Well wife
 (saith he) content your selfe; for if I can by any meanes get so
 much money ye shall go. You know it is not little that we shall
 spend there: yea, moze thins then will bee my ease to lay out.
 Good Christ (qd. she) is it now come to that? You promised me
 absolutely, without either ifs or ands: befoze God I will goe,
 whether you will or no: for there goes my Mother, my Cousin
 T. my Cousen B. and my Cousen R. and his wife. If you will
 not let me goe with them, I know not with whom you will let
 me goe. He, hearing her thus willfull, thinke it best for his
 owne quietnes to let her go, though he straine his Purse some-
 what the moze. The time comes, he hires Hozes, buyes her a
 new riding Cotone, and doth furnish her accoording to her mind,
 peraduenture there goes in their company a lustie Gallant, that
 will scrollicke it by the way on her Husbonds cost, for his Purse
 must pay for all. It may be hee will himselfe, because he hath
 neuer a man, or else cannot spare him from his worke. But then
 is the poore man notably perplexed, for hee will of purpose trou-
 ble him for euery trifle, moze then hee would doe to another;
 because it doth her good to make a Iudge of him (and so much
 the rather) that hee may not afterwards haue any desire to goe
 abroad with her againe.

Sometimes her Stirrop is too long; sometimes too short; and
 he must still alight to make it fit: Sometimes shee will weare
 her Cloake, sometimes not, and then hee must carry it: Then
 finds she fault with her Hozes trotting, which makes her sicko,
 and then she will alight & walke on foote, leaving him to leade
 the hozes: Within a while after they come to a water, then
 must he be troubled to helpe her by againe. Sometimes he can
 eat nothing that is in the Inn, then must hee (being weary all
 day with Riding, trudge by and downe all the Towne, to finde
 something that will sit her stomacke; All which notwithstanding,
 she will not be quiet: and not she onely, but her Cousins
 also, will be bobbing and quibbing him, saying, that he is not
 worthy to be a woman's man. But he is so inured to these Tang-
 lings,

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things, that hee cares not for all their frivolous words.

Well, at length to the Faire they come, and then must hee play the Squire in going befoze her; making so much rume for them as he can: when there is any throng or presse of people, (being very chary of his wife, lest she should be hurt or annoyed by thronging.) There mayes hee like a Horse, and sweates like a Bull, yet cannot all this please her. Some Dames of the company, which are more stush in Crownes then her good man, bestowes money on gold Rings, Hats, like Gyroles, Jewels, or some such toys, yea, costly toys; which she no sooner sees, but presently she is on fire, untill she have the like. Then must hee herein content her (if he lose his owne ease) and haue he money or not, some shift must be made to satisfie her humors. Well now imagine them going homewards, and thinke his paine & trouble no lesse then it was coming forth, her Hays perhaps both sounder much, or trots too hard; which is peradventure be reason of a nalle in his foot, or some other mischaunce. Then must hee perforce buy, or hyze another hays; & if he haue not money enough to doe so, then must hee let her ride on his, and hee trot by her side, like a Lackey. By the way she will aske for twenty things, for milke, because she cannot away with their drinks; for Peares, Plums, & Cherries: When they come nere a Towne, hee must run befoze to chuse out the best Inne; ever & anon as she rides, she will of purpose let fall her wand, her Hake, her Clones, or some thing else for him to take up, because she will not haue him idle; When they are come home, she will for a fortnight together doe nothing else but gad by and do woe amongst her Cousins, to tell them how many gay and strange things she hath scene, all that hath passed by the way, in going & coming, but especially of her good man, whom she will be sure to blame: saying, that hee did her no pleasure in the world, and that (she says) being sicke and wearie, could not get him to helpe her, or to prouide any thing for her that shee liked: And finally, that hee hath had no more care of her, then if shee had bene a more stranger.

But hee (poore sot,) finding at his returns, all things out of order, is not a little troubled to set them in due frame againe,

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and toyles exceedingly at his labour, that hee may recover his charges which he hath bene at in this Journey. But she, what so? Gossiping, so? Pride, and Idleness, will not set her hands to any thing; and yet if ought goe well, she will say it was through her heedfulness, and good Husbandrie: If otherwise, then will she scold, and lay the fault thereof on him, although it be her owne doings. To be short: having thus gotten aaine of Gadding, she will neuer leave it, and hereby the poore man will be utterly spoiled: for both his substance shall be wasted, his limbes through labour, filled with Aches, his fiers with the Cote, & Age comes on him befoze his time; yet as thogh this were not enill enough, she will be continually bawling, scolding, and complaining, how she is broken through Child-bearing. Thus is the silly man by to the eares in Lobs-Pound, being on each side beset with care and trouble; which hee takes so? pleasure, and therein languish whiles hee liues.

CHAP. IX.

The humour of a curst Queene, married
to a froward Husband.

The next humo? that is incident to a Woman, is, when the Husband hauing entred very young into Lobs pound, and there fettered himselfe by his too much folly, so? a vaine hope of ticklish delights, which lasted but so? a yere or two, hath matched himselfe with a very froward and peruerse woman (of which sort there are too many) whose whole desire is to be distressed and to weare the Whores; or at least to beare as great a sway as himselfe. But he being craftie, and with all crabbed, will in no wise suffer this usurped Soueraigntie, but in sundrie manners withstaunds it. And there hath bin great strife and arguing about this matter betwene themselves, and now & then some battels: but so she what she can, either with her tongue or hands, notwithstanding their long controuersie; which hath perhaps lasted at the least these twenty yeares, hee is still victorious, and holds his right: but you must thinke that his strining
so?

for it all this while, hath bene no small trouble and vexation vnto him, beside all other aforesaid evils; All which, or part thereof he hath likewise endured: Well, to be short, he hath perchance thre or foure Children all married, and by reason of the great paines and trouble that he hath taken in bringing them vp, providing them portions, maintaining his Wife, encreasing his stocke, or at least keeping it from being diminished, and lining with credit amongst his Neighbours: At last it may be he hath gotten the Colic, or some other dangerous disease, and withall is growne old, and thereby feeble, so that being set he can hardly rise, though an Ache that he hath got in his Arms or legges: Then is their long warre come to an end, and the case (as Poyden saith) cleane altered; For his wife being younger then he, and as Frolicke as euer she was, will now be sure to haue her owne will in despite of his beards: Whereby the Poore man, which hath maintained the Combate so long, is now bitterlie put downe: his owne Children, which before hee kept in awe well enough, will now take harte to themselves, and if hee reprimand them for their leauenes and disobedience, he will maintaine them against him to his teeth, which must needs be a great griefe vnto him.

But besides all this, he is in doubt of his Seruants; for they likewise neglect their former duety, & leane altogether to their misrule; so that his Poore man, which now by reasons of his sickness, and feeblenes of bodie, hath moze needs of attendance then euer he had, shall haue but very little or none at all; For though he be as wise and as careful as euer he was, yet sith he cannot bestirre himselfe to followe them as hee was wont, they contemne, and make no moze reckoning of him, then if he were a mere Fole.

When peradventure his eldest Sonne, thinking that his Father liues too long: will take vpon him to guide the house, and disposing all things at his pleasure, as (if his Father were become an innocent, and could no longer looke to things as hee was wont,) Judge you whether the Good man seeing himselfe thus abused by his Wife, Children and Seruants, he grieved or not. If he purpose to make his Will, they will seeke all

meanes to keepe him from doing it, because they heare an Ankling, that hee will bestow somewhat on the Parish, or will not bequeath his Wife so much as she would haue.

To bee short, that they may make an end of him the sooner, they will many times leaue him in his Chamber halfe a day and more without meate, fire, or ought else, not one of them coming to see what hee wants, or to doe him any seruice: his Wife is weary of him by reason of his spitting, coughing and groaning.

All the loue and kindnesse, which he had in former times shewed vnto her, is quite forgotten: but his Wife for superstitious, and his crabbednes towards her, (when she had lately mewed him,) this she can still as well remember, as when it was first done: Neither will she spare to pate thereof to her Neighbours, telling them that hee hath bene a bad man, and that shee hath led such a life with him, that if she had not bene a woman of great patience, she could neuer haue endured to keepe house with so crabbed a Churchie.

He will likewise boldly repproch, and twit him in the teeth with those former matters, for it doth yet shewely sticke in her Romache, that she could not till now be Mistress. But he that was wont to charme her tongue, and keepe her under; who, seeing him now in his distresse and weaknesse, takes advantage, and continues his bad vsage: seeing also his Children, which should feare and reuerence him, taking part with their Mother, being taught and set on by her: seeing this (I say) and being no lesse angrie then grieved, hee calles some of them in a rage, and when they are come befoze him, thus beginnes he to his wife,

Wife, you are shee, whom by the Lawes of God and Man, I should loue and esteeme moze then any thing else in the world; and you on the other side, should beare the like affection to me: but whether you doe so or not, I referre it to your owne conscience, I tell you I am not well pleased with your vsing of mee thus: I thinke you take mee still for the Master of the house as befoze you haue done, but whether you thinke so or not, be sure I will be Master while I liue, yet (you I thanke you) do be to me, and account of me in very slight manner: I haue alwaies lo-
ued

ned you wel, neuer suffered you to lacke that which was meete :
I haue in like sort loued, & also maintained your Childzen and
mine, according to my degree, and now both you and they doe
very unkindly requite me.

Why (saith hee) what would you haue vs to doe : What doe
the best we can, but you cannot tell your selfe what you would
haue : The better wee be to you, and the more we tend you, the
more you are: But you were neuer other, alwayes brawling,
and neuer quiet, neuer pleased full nor fasting : I thinke ne-
uer woman was so long troubled with a crooked Wofle as I
haue bene.

Ah Dame (saith he) leaue these words, I pray you : then tur-
ning him to his eldest sonne, he said : Sonne, I haue maruel'd
at your behauiour of late toward mee, and I tell you I am not
well pleased there with : You are my eldest, and shall be mine
heire, if you behaue your selfe as a child ought to doe ; But you
begin already to take state vpon you, and to dispose of my goods
at your pleasure : I would not wish you to bee so forward, but
rather while I liue, to serue and obey me, as it becomes you to
doe : I haue bene no bad Father vnto you, I haue nothing im-
paired or diminished, but increas'd that which was left me by my
Father, which if you doe your dutie to mee (as I did mine to
him) I will leaue to you after my decease as hee left to mee: but
if you continue in your Stubbornesse and disobedience, before
God (I sweare,) I will not bestow one pennie or croffe vpon
thee.

Heere his Wife begins againe to thwart him : Why, what
would you haue him doe : It is impossible for any one to please
you ; hee shall haue enough to doe that shall alwayes tend you:
Tis it is high time that you and I were both in Heauen, you
know not your selfe: what would you haue ? I maruell what
you aske. Well, well, (saith he) I pray you be quiet, doe not
maintaine him thus against mee, but it is alwayes your order.

After this, the Mother and Sonne departing, consult toge-
ther, and conclude, that hee is become a Child againe, and
because he hath threatned to disinherit them; they resolve
that no man shall bee suffered to come and speake with him :

his

His Sonne takes vpon him moze then befoze, being bozne out by his Mother; who together with him, makes euery one be- lieue that the Poore man is become childifh, and that he hath loſt both his ſenſe and memorie.

If any of his honeſt Friends and former acquaintance, which were wont to reſort vnto him, come now to aſke for him, his Wife will thus anſwere them. Alas he is not to be ſpoken with: and when he demands the cauſe thereof, doubting he is dangerously ſicke, Ah good Neighbour (quoth ſhe) he is become an Innocent, euen a Child againe; ſo that I poore ſoule, muſt guide all the Houſe, and take the whole charge of all things vpon me, hauing none to helpe me, but God be praized for all.

In faith (ſaith the other) I am very ſorry to heare this, and doe much maruell at it; for it is not long ſince I ſaw him, and ſpoke with him, and then he was in as good memorie, and ſpoke with as good ſenſe and reaſon as euer he did befoze. In trueth (ſaith ſhe) he is now as I tell yee.

Thus both ſhe wrong and ſlandere the Poore man, which hath alwayes liued in good credit, and kept his Houſhold in very good order: but you may be well aſſured, that he ſeing himſelfe in his Age thus deſpiſed and intured, and being not able to remedie himſelfe, nor ſtirre without helpe from the place where he is, thereby to acquaint his Friends therewith, which might in his behalfe redreſſe it; is not a little grieved, bered, and tormented in his minde, with ſorrow and anger: So that it is a great maruall he ſaies not into diſpaire; For it is enough to make a ſaint become impatient to be uſed thus; by thoſe which ſhould obey, ſerue, and honour him. And in my opinion his is one of the greateſt Cozouſnes that any man can feele: ſuch is the illue of this great haſte and extreame deſire to be in Robs-Pound, where he muſt now remaine perſoꝛce, till Death doe end (at once) both his life and languifhing.

CHAP. XIII.

The humour of a Woman giuen to all
kind of pleasures.

Another Humour incident to a Woman by nature is, when the Husband (thinking that Medlocke was of all estates the happiest, and altogether replenished with delight and pleasure) because hee saw some of his Friends, who for a while after they were married, were very cherefull and iocund, neuer ceaseth toyling and turmoyling himselfe till he haue gotten in to Lobs-Pound, whereto he is presently caught fast like a Bird in a Net: for this comparison, if we do examine the particulars thereof, both very fitly resemble his estate. The silly Birdes which flye from tree to tree, and from field to field to seeke meate when they see great deals of Coyne spilt on the ground, thinke themselves well apaid, and without any feare come thither to feed thereon, picking vp the graines of Coyne, but alas they are deceiued, for on a sudden the net is drawne, and they are all fast by the legs, and thence carried in a sacke or Banier one by one another to the Fowlers house, then crompt in a Cage. Oh how happy would they thinke themselves, if they were againe at their former liberty to flie whether they list, but they will too late: yet were this all the euill that they would endure, it were well, but (which is worse) they shall some after haue their necks wrong off, and their little bodies spitted, to be made meate for men to eate.

But they are herein farre more simple then the Birdes, for they being fast in Lobs-Pound, are so besotted with their owne sorowes, that they haue no power to free themselves: So likewise they haue no will to doe it. But to proceed, the Wife not loving her Husband, for some defect which is in him, that she may haue some colour for that she doth, makes her Mother and other Friends which blame her for it, belaine, that her Husband is bewitched; and by reason of some Sorcery made for the most part impotent; Whereupon the complaines of her ill Fortune

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tune, resembling it to those, which hauing the Cup at their noses, cannot drinke: meane while she hath a stout heart in a corner, who is not bewitched, who bseth her company so long, and with so little heed, that in the end her Husband perceiues it, and falling into the uaine of Zealouster, beates her wel sauourredly, and keepe a foule fire both with blowes and wordes, so that she not liking his usage, giues him the slip, but then is her cleane out of patience; and so Husbonds in this taking are so mad, that they neuer lin seeking them, & would giue halfe they are woorth to find her againe: who hauing thus plaid her pageant, and seeing her Husbonds humour, compact with her Father, whose good will she will be sure to get by one meanes or other, (whereas at the first she will perhaps thinke hardly of her departure from her Husband) she doth I say, so handle the matter with her, that she will make the God-man beliene her Daughter hath bene all this while at home with her, and that she came to shunne his bad usage, who (had she taried with him till then) had bene lamed for ever.

Before God (quoth shee) I had rather you should reioyce her againe to me, then beate her thus without cause, for I know that you suspect her wrongfully, and that shee hath neuer offended you: I wis I haue straitly examined her about it, but if she would haue bene naught, you did enough to proue her: By Gods passion I thinke few woman could haue borne it; Well (it may be) that vpon these or the like terms he takes her againe it may be also, that they are both desirous to be diuorced, each accusing other, and seeking to wind themselves againe out of Lobs-Downe, but in vaine: For, either the causes that they alledge are not thought sufficient by the Judge, how hard so euer they plead, but must of force continue still together, are laugh-ed to scoorne of all that heares the cause: or if they be separated, yet will not all this set them free, but rather plunge them in deeper then before, but neither of them can marrie whiles the other liues: and their Chastitie so brittle (especially hers,) that hold it cannot, nor long endure.

She who was wont to be so scallicke, must needs continue

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and so kill; May peradventure, being now without controlment, followes her will and leaue life, more freely then before: and whereas she was but eare a pyrate Quene, she is now common to the way of God-fellowshippe; or else some lustie Gallant takes her into his house, and shelters her by his nose, which must needs be unto him an exceeding inward griefe, and an open disgrace and shame in the eyes of the world: and which is worse, he knowes not how in the world to remedie it, but must perforce endure both, while this miserable life doth last.

CHAP. IX.

The humour of a Woman to get her Daughters a Husband, hauing made alittle Wanton escape.

The next humor that a Woman is addicted unto, is, when a lustie young Gallant riding at pleasure by and about the Countrey, but especially to those places of sports and pleasure where the sweet Dames & dainty Gyles meets, who can finely mince their Pleasures, hauing their Tongues trained vp to all kind of Amorous chat; in which delightfull exercises, this Wanker both by reason of his youth, his loose bringing up, and naturall Inclination, takes a great felicitie in such daine companie: and so much the rather, because he findes himselfe (alwayes welcommed, and kindly entertained to such places) and the reason is, the comeltnesse of his person, his amiable countenance, and quaint behaviour: so; who so ever hath these good helpes, shall want no fauour at Womens hands: It may bee also, that his Parents are still liuing, and bee their onely ioy, they hauing perhaps no Child but him, so that all their most delight is in maintaining him byauely. It may be also, that he is newly come to his Landes, and longes to see fa- shions, though it cost his purse neuer so largely. If any Gentle-woman offer any kindenesse, he is ready to requite it: and

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at length through long prauncing to many places, he lights on one that both exceedingly please his eye, and inflame his heart; she is perhaps Daughter to some Gentle-man, some Citizen, or some worthy Farmer. She hath a cleare complexion, a fine proportion, and wanton eye, a dainty Tong, and a sharpe wit, by reason of all which good gifts, she is growne very famous. She hath bene wooed, sued, and courted by the briskest Gallants in that countrey; of whom perhaps some one being more forward and couragious then the rest, hath offered her such kindness, as sticks by her ribs a good while after, and would needs impose this courtesie with such importunitie, that she had not the power to resist it: so; a woman that hath her fine wittes, if she be withall of a cheérfull sanguine complexion, cannot be so unkind, or so hard-hearted, as to denie, or repulse the petition of an amorous Friend, if he doe any thing earnestly proferre the same. And (to be plaine) be she of what Complexion soever, she will be nothing slacke to graunt such a sute.

But to returne to our purpose, by reason of her tender compassion and kind acceptance of his proffered service, if so falls out she hath plaide false, then is there no other shift but to kepe it both secret and close, and to take such order as they best can, for smothering vp of the matter; he that hath done the deed being a more young man, though proper of bodie, and perhaps can dance very well, by which good qualitie he wonne her fauour, and within a while after, cropt the flowre of her Maidenhead: he (I say) after a chace of two, and no farther matter, (lest this pious scape should be openly knowne) is warned from coming any more to the house, or frequenting her company what-soever.

But now you must note, that she being but a simple Cyprie, betwixtne fourtene and fiftene yeares of Age, nothing expert, but rather a novice in such matters, and having been but lately deceived, knowes not her selfe how it is with her: But her mother which by long experience hath gotten great Iudgement, doth by her colour, her complaining of paine at her hart and stomack with other like tokens perceiue it well enough, and having (as before I said) call'd her the author of the action; Then takes

takes the her Daughter aside, and schooles her so, that in the end she confesseth that he hath bene dallying with her, but she knowes not whether to any purpose or not. Yes (saith her Mother), it is to such purpose (as by these signes I know very wel) that you haue thereby both shamed your selfe and all our friends and spaled your Marriage quiet and cleane.

To be short, hauing somewhat chid her after the common order, for hauing no more respect nor care of her honestie, (yet not chiding very extreamely, because she knowes the frailtie of youth by her owne former experience) she concludes thus comfortably: sith it is done, and cannot be altogether remedied, she will seeke (both to hide and salue the matter as well as she can) charging her Daughter to set a good countenance on it, least it should be suspected, and to follow her counsell and commandement in all things: whereupon the poore French willingly consenteth, then the Mother proceeds thus:

You know Master T. A. that cometh hither so often, he is you see a proper Gentleman, and a rich Helre, to morrow he hath appointed to be here againe; Loke that you giue him good entertainment, and shew him good countenance. When you see me and the rest of our Guests talking and discoursing together, euer and anon cast you Eye on him, in the kindest and louingest manner that you can: If hee same desirous to speake with you, be not coy, but heare him willingly, and were him courteously. If hee intreate one of you, tell him that you know not what it meanes, and that you haue no desire at all to know it; yet thanke him for his good will: for that woman is too incourteous and incivill, which will not bouchcase the hearing of gentle answereing to those that loue her, and wish her well.

If he offer you Money, take none in any case; if a Ring, or a Gyrdle, or any such thing, at the first refuse it, yet kindly and with great thanks: but if hee urge it on you twice or thrise, take it; telling him, sith that hee will needs bestow it on you, you will weare it for his sake. Lastly, when hee takes his leave, aske him when hee will come againe? These Instructions being thus giuen and the Plot laid for the fetching

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in of this kind fole into Lobs-Pound.

The next day he cometh, and is on all hands more kindly welcome & entertained: after dinner, having had great cheere the Mother falls in talk with the other Guests, and this frolicke Pounce gets him as neere to her Daughter as hee can, and while the other are hard in chat, he takes her by the hand, and thus begins to court her.

Gentlewoman, I would to God you knew my thoughts. Your thoughts Sir (saith she) how should I know them, except you tell them me? It may be you thinke some thing that you are loth to tell. Not so (saith he) yet I would you knew it without telling. But that (saith she smiling) is impossible. When (quod he) if I might doe it without offence, I would adventure to tel you them. Why (saith she) you may freely speake your pleasure; for I doe so much assure me of your honesty, that I know you will speake nothing that they procure offence.

Then thus (saith he) I acknowledge without flatering, that I am farre unworthy of so great a favour, as to bee accepted for your Servant, Friend, and Lover, which art so faire, so gentle, and every way so gracious, that I may truly say, you are replenished with all the good gifts that Nature can plant in any mortal creature: But if you would vouchsafe me this undeserved grace, my good will, diligence, and continuall forwardnesse to serve and please you should never faile: but I would therein equal the most loyal Lover that ever lived, I would esteem you more then any thing else, and tender more your good name and credit then mine owne.

God Why (quoth she) I heartily thanke you for your kind offer, but I pray you speake no more of such matters; for I neither know what Love is, nor yet care for knowing it: This is not the lesson that my Mother teacheth me now adaves. Why (saith he) if it please you she shall know nothing of it; yet the other day I heard her talke of preferring you in marriage to one Master G. R. How say you to that (quoth she?) Marie (thus answered the Gentleman,) If you would vouchsafe to entertaine me for your Servant, I would never marry, but only relye upon your favour.

But

But that (saith she) should be no profit to either of vs both, and beside it would be to my reproch,, which I had not thought you would seeke. Nay (sa. he) I had rather die them seeke your discredit. Well Sir (saith she) speaks no more hereof, for if my Mother should perceive it, I were bitterly undone. And it may be her Mother makes her a signe to gine over, fearing that she both not play her part well.

At the breaking vp of their amorous Parley, he conueyes into her hand a gold Ring, or some such toy, desiring her to take it and keepe it for his sake: which at the first, (according to her Mothers precepts) she doth refuse; but upon his more earnest bugging of it, she is content to take it in the way of honestie, and not on any promise or condition of any farther matter; when it was brought to this passe, the mother makes motion of a Journey to be made the next morning, some ten or twelue miles off, to visit, or least with some Friend, or to some Faire, or whatsoever other occasion presents it selfe: To this motion they all agree, and afterwards sit downe to supper, where he is placed next the Daughter, who carries her selfe so toward him with her piercing glaunces, that the young Heire is set on fire therewith. Well, morning comes, they mount on Horse-backe, and by the opinion of them all, there is neuer a Horse in the company that can carry double but his; So the Gull is appointed to haue the Maiden ride behind him, whereof he is not a little proud: and when he seales her hold fast by the middle, (which she doth to stay her selfe the better) he is euen raniourd with toy.

After their returning home, which perhaps will be the same night, the Mother taking her Daughter aside, questions with her, touching all that had passed betwixt the amorous gallant and her; which when her Daughter hath rehearsed, then proceeds the wils Gran-dame thus. If he Court thee any more (as I know he will,) then make him answer that thou hast heard thy Father and mee talke of matching thee with Master G. R. but that thou hast no desire as yet to be married: If he then offers to make thee his Wife, and bid any comparisons of his worth and wealth, as though wee were euery way as good as he, thanke him for his good will and kindnes, and tell him:

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him that thou wilt speake with me about it, and that soz thy alone part thou couldest finde in thy hart to haue him to thy Husband rather then any man else: upon this lesson the Daughter sleepes, resoluing it all night in her minde.

The next morning she walkes into the Garden, and this lusty Donker followes; when having giuen her the time of the day, he falls to his former suite. She willes him to giue ouer such talke, or she will leave his company: In this the Lone you beare me (qd she) to seeke my dishonour: & You know well enough that my Father and Mother are minded to bestow me otherwise.

Oh my sweet Mistresse (saith hee) I would they did so farre fauour me herein, as they do him; I dare boldly say and sweare it, and without haue glozzy bitter it, that I am every way his equall. Oh Sir (answers she,) I would be were like you. Oh sweet Mistresse (saith he) you deigne to thinke better of mee then I deserue, but if you would farther vouchsafe me the other fauour, I should esteeme my selfe most happye. An troth wy, (saith she) it is a thing that I may not dos of my selfe, without the counsell & consent of my Parents, to whom I would gladly moue it, if I thought they would not be offended: But it would be so much the better if you break the matter vnto them; and be sure, if they preferre the matter to me, you shall speed so soone as male. He being raniht with these words, and yeelding her infinite thanks, trots presently to the Mother, to get her good will.

To be short, (with some little adoe) the matter is brought about, enen in such sozt as he would desire: they are straightway Contracted, and immediately Wedded, both because that her Friends feare that the least delay will pzeuent all, and because he is so hot on the spur, that he thinks every houre a yeare til it be done. Well, the Wedding night comes, wherein he behaues her selfe so (by her Mothers counsell) that he dares sweare on the Bible that he had her Maidenhead.

With in a while after, it comes to his Friends eares, without whose knowledge he hath married himselfe, who are exceeding soz, knowing she was no meete match soz him, and it may be they

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they haue heard withall of his *Wines* humoꝝ : but now there is no remedy, that knot is knitt, and cannot be vndone, they must therefore haue patience perfoꝛce.

Well, hee brings his faire *Wilde* home to his owne house, where (God wot) he hath but a small time of pleasure, foꝛ within thꝛee oꝛ foure moneths after their *Parlage*, she is brought to Bed ; Iudge then in what taking the poꝛe man is ? If he put her away, his name will be publike, he growes common, and hee not be permitted to marrie againe while hee liues, and if he keeps her till, lone hee cannot, suspect hee he will, and shee both hate him, and perhaps sake his end ; Finally, all the ioyes, pleasures, and delights which befoꝛe time they had, are all turned to bꝛawles, banning, cursing, and fighting. Thus is he hampered in *Lobs-Pound*, where he must of ioyce remaine, till death end his liues miseries.

CHAP. XII

The humour of a Woman being matched
with an ouerkind Husband.

There is another humoꝝ incident to a Woman, which is, when a Young man hath turmoyled and tossed himselfe so long, that with much adoe he hath gotten into *Lobs-pound*, and hath perhaps met with a *Wife* according to his owne desire, and perchance such a one, that it had bene better foꝛ him to haue lighted on another ; yet hee likes her so well, that he would not haue mist her foꝛ any gold, foꝛ in his opinion there is no Woman alike like vnto her, he hath a great delight to heare her speake, is proud of his match, and peradventure is withall of so shepish a nature, that he hath purposed to holliely to gouerne himselfe by her counsell and direction ; So that if any one speake to him about a bargaine, oꝛ whatsoeuer other business, he telles them that hee will haue his *Wines* opinion in it, and if she be content, hee will goe through with it ; if not, then will hee giue it ouer : Thus is he as tame and pliable, as a *Jack-an-Ases* to his keeper. If the Prince set foꝛth an Arme,

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and she be unwilling that he should goe, who (you may thinke) will aske her leaue, then must he stay at home, fight who will for the Countrey: But if she be at any time desirous to haue his come (which many times she likes better then his company) she wants no Iourneyes to imploy him in, and hee is as ready as a Page to undertake them: If she chide, he answers not a word, generally, whatsoeuer she doth, or how soeuer, hee thinks it it well done.

Judge now in what a case this Allie Case is in; (Is not hee thinks you, finely dyed) that is in such subiection? The honest Woman, and most modest of that Sex, if shee weare the *Batchers*, she is so out of reason in taunting and controlling her Husband; for this is their common fault, and hee she neuer so wise, yet, because a Woman, scarce able to gouerne her selfe, much lesse her Husband, and all his affaires; for were it not so, doubtles GOD would haue made her the head: which sth it is otherwise, what can be moze preposterous, then that the Head should be gouerned by the Foote? If then a wise and honest Woman is superiour, be vnseemely, and vnder great inconueniencies, &c: how is he dyed (thinke you) if hee light on a fond, wanton, and malicious Dame? Then (doubtles) hee is soundly sped; he will not stick to keepe a sweet-heart vnder his nose, yet is hee so blind that hee can perceiue nothing, but for moze securitie he will many times send him packing beyond Sea, about some odde errand, which she will buzze in his eares, and he will perforce it at her pleasure, albeit she send him forth at midnight, in Raine, Hallo, or snow, for he must be a man fit for all weathers: Their Children (if they haue any) must needs be brought vp, apparelled, fedde, and taught, solely according to her pleasure: and onespeciall point of their learning, is alwayes to make no account of their Father. If anie of their Children be Daughters, she will marry them according to her minde: to whom she list, when she list, and giue with them what dowrie she list, without acquainting him therewith, till she haue concluded the match, and then shee telles him, (not to haue his consent) but as a Master may tell his Seruant, to giue him direction how to behaue himselfe to deale therein: Finally, shee

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orders all things as shee things best her selfe, making no more account of him, (especially if hee bee in yeares,) then men doe of an old Horse which is past labour.

Thus is he melted by in Aobs-Pound, plunged in a Sea of cares, and Coxosues, yet hee (kind frowle) deemes himselfe most happie in his unhappines, where he must not perforce remaine while his life doth last, and great pittie it were he should want it, sith he likes it so well.

CHAP XIII.

The humour of a Woman whose Husband
is gone beyond the Sea vpon
some businesse

A other humo^r of a Woman is, when the Husband hath bene married some seuen or eight yeeres, more or lesse, and as hee thinkes he hath met with a good Wife as any man can haue, with whom hee hath continued all the aforesaid time with great delights and pleasures: But admit hee be a Gentleman, and that hee is desirous to purchase honour by following Armes, and in this humour hee is resolved to make a steppe abroad, and not to tarry alwayes like a cowardly Drone, by the smoke of his owne chimney, but when he is ready to depart, she hauing her cheekes blubbered with teares, fallies about his necke, colles, kisseth, and embraceth him, then weeping, sighing, and sobbing, she thus begins to him.

Oh sweet Husband, will you now leane mee? Will you thus depart from mee, and from your louing Childzen, which knowes not when we shall see you againe; or whether you shall euer come home againe, y^e no? Alas sweet Husband goe not; Tarry with vs still, if you leane vs, wee are bitterly vndone

Oh sweet Wife (saith hee) dissuade me not from this enterprize: which concernes my credit and alleageance; for it is our Princes commandement, and I must obey, but be you wel assured, I will not be long from you (if it please God.)

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Thus doth hee comfort and quiet her in best sort that he can, and be she neuer so importunate, bo her teares neuer so manie, her intreats neuer so sozible, yet goe her will, estāming his renowne and duty to his Place and countrey, moze then wife and Childzen, though next to it, he esteeme and lone them chieffest of all other. And at his departure, he recommends them to the care and curtesie of his chieffest Friends; Yet some there be, whose tender harts melt so easilly with kind compassion, that one of their Widues teares, & the least of their intreats, will tye them so fast by the Legge at home, that they will not stirre one foot from her sweet side, neither so; Bing no; Keyfar, wealth no; hono;. These are Crauens, and butwozthy to be called Gentlemen.

But to returne to this hallozous and bawie minded Gentleman, whom wee spake befoze, it may bee, that either by the long continuance of the Warres, o; by his misfortunes, In being taken Prisoner, o; some other let, he comes not home in foure o; five yeares, and all that while there is no netwes of him, you may be sure that his Wife is a sozrowfull woman, & whollie surcharged with griefe, being thus depriued of her louing Mate, & hearing nothing of his estate. But all things haue an end, and shee seeing that in so long time, shee can heare no tydings of him, doth peremptozily conclude that he is dead. Then considering to liue comfortles in Widowes estate, were an vnconth life, she determines to marry her selfe to some one, so soone as conveniently she may, which will be soone enough; so; a faire Woman, if willing, can want no choyce. Thus her former sozrow is somewhat alaid, and within a while after, cleane extinguish, by the fresh delights, pleasures, contents, and sollace, which this new choyce doth yeild. So that now her other Husband is whollie forgotten, her Childzen which she had by him little regarded, and the Gods which belong to them, are spent an others, while the poze wretches want things needfull, but not blowes & hard blage. To be mozt, the teares which she bestowed on her other husband at his departure is dyed by, her embraces banished. And whosoener should see her with this second Husband, and what kindness shee shewes unto him, would verily

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verily thinks that she loves him far better than she did the first who in the meane while is either taken prisoner, or else fighting in extreame hazard of his life.

But in the end it chanceth so, that by paying his Ransome, (if hee haue bene Prisoner,) home he comes, cleane changed through the many troubles he hath had: And being come some what nere, failes not to enquire of his Wife and Childzen, for hee is in great feare: that they are either dead, or in some great distresse. And doubtes in the time of his Imprisonment of either dangers, hee haue, oft thought, oft dreamed of them, and oft sorrowed for them, oft besought God to preserve and bleesse them. And that perhaps sometimes, at the very instant when she was in the others armes, toying and dallying, and in the midst of her delights.

Well, enquiring (as before said) heares that shee is married againe, then indge you with what grieve hee heares it. But his grieve is bootlesse, for now the matter is past remedie, if he haue any care of his credit, any regard of his estimation, hee will neuer take her more, though perhaps the other, having had his pleasure of her, could be well content either to restore her to him, or to leaue her to any one else.

What on the other side is bitterly shamed, and her name stained with perpetuall reproch, and neither hee nor shee can marry whiles they live. Their poore Childzen are likewise grieved and shamed at their Mothers infamy. Sometimes likewise it happens, that for the Wives cause, the Husband being courageous both quarrel, & perhaps combat with him, who being better then himselfe, doth either wound or kill him, and the occasion hereof, spring from their Wives pride, because (forsooth) she will take the wall of the others wife, or sit above her: whom shee will in no wise suffer, nor lose an inch of her estate, and herebyon the Husbonds must together by the eares.

Thus the supposed blessednes which hee expected by plunging himselfe in Lechery, is turned into sorrow, trouble, danger, and continuall discontent while life doth last.

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CHAP. XIII.

The humor of a Woman that hath
bene twice married.

There is another humor belonging to a Woman, which is, when a Young man (having found the way into Robbes Young,) meetes with a Wife of like peeres, fresh, lustie, Faire, kind, and gracions; with whom she hath liued two or threer yeares, in all delightes, toyes, and pleasure, that any married couple could haue, neuer did the one displease the other; neuer soule word past betwixt them, but they are almost still colling and billing each other, like a couple of Doves. And Nature hath framed such Simpathy betweene them, that if the one be ill at ease or discontented, the other is so likewise. But in the midst of this their mutuall loue and solace: it chan- ceth that she dies, whereat he grieses so extremely, that hee is almost beside himselfe with sorrow: hee mournes, not only in his Apparell, for an outward shew, but vnsainedly, in his very heart; and that so much, that hee shunneth all places of pleasure, and all companie, liues solitarily, and spends the time in daily complaints and mones, and bitterly bewailing the losse of so good a wife, wherein no man can iustly blame him for it is a losse worthy to be lamented, and a Jewell, which who- soener hath, is happie (but this happines is very rare.)

To be short, his thoughts are all on her, and he so firmly printed in his minde, that whether he sleepe or wake, she seemes alwayes to be in sight, but as all things hath an end, so here had sorrow. After a while, some of his Friends ha- uing spee'd out a second match, which as they thinke is very fitte for him, doe preuaile so much with him, through her perswasions, that he accepts it, and marries himselfe againe, but not as befoze with a young Maide, but with a lusty Wit- dow, of a middle age, and much experience, who by the tryall which she had of her first Husband, knowes how to handle the second, but that the way doe it the better, she doth not presently discouer

discouer her humoz, till she haue thzoughly markt how hee is inclined, what his conditions are, and what his nature is: which finding it mild, and kind, & very flexible (the fittest mould to cast a foale in) hauing now the full length of his foote, then shewes she herselfe what she is, bzmasking her dissembling malice; her first attempt is to blurpe & superiozitie, and to become his head, and this she obtaines without great difficultie, for there is nothing so lauish as a simple and well-natured young man, being in subiection, that is married to a Whore, especially if she be, (as the most of them are) of a peruerse and crabbed nature. I may beey well compare him to an vnfortunate wretch, whose ill happe is to be cast into some strong Prison, vnder the keeping of a most cruell and pittilesseaylor, that is not moued to compassion, but rather to great rigour, in beholding the miseries of this poore wretch, whose onely refuge in this distresse, is to pray vnto God, to giue him patience to endure this crosse, for if he complaine of his hard vslage, it will afterwards proue worse.

But to proceed: This folly Whore will within a while growe zealous, feare and suspect that some other Dame hath part of that which shee so earnestly desireth, and wherewith she could neuer be satisfied, so that if shee giue not her insatiable humoz, straightway shee conceaueth this opinion: If he doe but onely talke, nay, (which is worse) looke on any other Woman, for shee by her gods will would be alwayes in his armes, or at the least in his companie: For as to the fish which hauing been in water, that thzough the heate of the Sommer is halfe dzyed vp, beginnes to sticke fall of mudd, seeks for fresh water, and hauing found it, doth willingly remaine therein, and will in no wise returne to his former place: Euen so an old Woman, hauing gotten a young man, will cling to him like Tap to an Elm.

But on the other side, a young man cannot loue an old Woman, howsoeuer hee doth dissemble, neither is there any, that more endangers his death: for it is with him, as with one that drinkeeth musty wine, who if yee be thirsty,

seeks

saies nothing whiles hee is drinkeing, but at the end of his draught, hee saies such a displeasing taste, that it doth almost turne his stomacke.

But if Young-men in no wise can fancies old Women, what lone thinke you young-women can beare to old men, when besides the sundry imperfections of their Age, which are so loathsome, that it is impossible for a fresh young tender Damsell, (be she neuer so vertuous) to endure their companie, much lesse the kisses and embraces of the person which hath them; All the lusty Gallants therabouts will not faile to vse whatsoeuer deuises and meanes possible for the buying of the old Dotard; hoping that she will be easily wonne to wantonnes: and surely they ground this hope on great likelyhood; For sth it is no difficult exploitte to graft the like kindnesse on a Young-mans forehead, who is able in farre better measure to sed his Wines appetite, and she hath therefore moze cause to be true to him, it may surely seeme no great matter to perforce the like piece of service with this other unfortunate Dame.

But now to returne to our Young-man, yea (as before I said) to this old Widow. I thus conclude, that his estate is most miserable: For besides the danger of his health, and besides the subiection, yea, rather seruitude which hee liues in, this third entill, (I mean his Wines Zealousie) is alone an intolerable torment vnto him; So that he he neuer so quiet, neuer so desirous to content her, neuer so fearefull to displease her, yet cannot hee auoyd her brawles, objections, and false accusations of leandnes and disloyaltie; for an old Woman infected with Zealousie, is like a hellish Furie.

If yee goe to any of her Friends about businesse, yea, to the Church to serue God, yet will she alwayes thinke the worst, and assure her selfe, that hee plays false, though indeed he be neuer so continent; who whatsoeuer he pleadeth in his owne defence, yea, though he pprove himselfe blamelesse, be such reasons as shee can by no reason confute, yet will not all this satisfie her: such is the perversenesse of her stubborne, crabbed, and malicious nature, made worse by Dotage and raging Zealousie: so; being pprais to her owne defects, and knowing that he

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he be reasen of his youth and handsome may perchance fall in
favour with a yong dame, thinking withall that a yong man,
when he may have such a match, will be loth to leave it for a
woyse, or preferre lower vertue before a sweet wine. He con-
cludes peremptorily in these suggestions as before. Now heere
the issues of this asses turning into Lobs pound, entangling of
himselfe againe, when he had once gotten out to his former li-
bertie, which if he once moze looke for, he is many for he must
now perforce continue there while life doth last, which by this
meanes will be farre shorter, and he looke farre older, having
bene but two yeares married with this old crib, than if he had
lived ten yeares with a yong wife.

CHAP. XV.

The humor of a young woman given over to all
kind of wantonnesse.

There is yet another humor, that a woman is subject to,
which is, when an unfortunate yong man having long
laboured to get into Lobs pound, and having in the end
obtained his desires, doth match himselfe with a lustie wanton
yong wench, which without feare of him, or care of her
owne credit, takes her pleasure freely, and withall so over-
boldly, and unabashably, that within a while her husband
perceives it, who thereupon being not a little enraged, doth
in the heats of his impatience, after much brawling on both
sides, roughly and desperately threaten her, thinking there-
by to terrifie her, and make her honest by compulsion: But
that makes her woysse, for whereas before she did it for wan-
tonnesse, now will she doe it for despight: and what with
the one and the other, he so inflamed, that were she sure to
be killed for it, yet would she not leave it: Which he perceiv-
ing, watching her doings so narrowly, that in the end he
sees her sweet heart come closely to his house, then being on
fire with furie, runnes hastily to surprize him, and enters his
wines chamber with full purpose to kill him, though he had

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ten thousand lines: But imagine you in what a taking the young man is in, seeing himself thus surpris'd, and looking for nothing else but present death, because he hath nothing to defend himselfe. But the for whose sake he hath incurred this danger, doth kindly free him by this stratagem, for as her husband is ready to strike or stab him, she catcheth him hastily about the middle, crying out, Alas man what doe you meane? While she thus saves her husband, the younker betakes him to his heels, running downe the staires amaine, and out of the dores, as if the Diuell were at his taile, and after him the good man as fast as he can dye. But when hee sees that he cannot overtake him, hee turnes backe in a like rage, to wyseake his anger on his wife. But shee breading as much, gets her hastily (before his returne) to her mother, to whom shee complains of his causelesse suspicion, and diuellish surts, inslipping her selfe, as if she were not the woman, that would commit so lewde a part: But her mother lifting the matter narrowly, her daughter confesseth her fault, but to make it seeme the lesse, shee tels her a large Tale of the young mans importunitie, who for so long time together, did continually trouble her, and whether soeuer shee went, he would be sure to follow her, begging pittifully her loue and fauour, that she had often sharpeply answered him, and flatly denied his sute, yet could she not for all that berid of him: so that in the end, she was enforced for her owne quietnes to graunt his request, who repeates withall, how kindly and intirely he loues her, how much he hath bestowed on her, how many soule iournies he hath had for her sake, in rain and snow, as well by night as day, in danger of theues, in perrell of his life, and how narrowly he escaped her husband the last time, so that for very pittie and compassion, she was moued to fauour him, and no woman could be so hard harted, as to suffer so true and kind a young man to languish for her loue, and die disregarded: for on my life mother (saith she) if I had not yielded, he would haue dyed for thought.

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The Mother bearing her Daughter to say thus, accepts her suitore for currant, and thinks that she hath sufficiently justified her selfe; but to prevent further scandale, and to appease her angry sonne in Law, and reconcile her Daughter unto him by casting a mist before his eyes, she takes this course, She sends for her speciall Gossips and companions, whose counsels in like cases, shes doth vse: They coming at the first call, and being all assembled, either before a good fire (if it be Winter) or in a greene Arbo; (if it be Sommer) one of them noting her Daughters heauy countenance: demands the cause thereof: Marie, (saith she) she hath had a mischance, about which, I haue made bolde to troubled you, and craue your aduice: With that she recounts the whole matter vnto them, but shewing the true cause of her Husbands anger: To be short, she hath ready 2 or 3 pottles of Wine, and a few Junkets, which they presently fall aboord on, that they may the better gine their severall verdicts afterwards; meane while they comfort the young woman, bidding her assure her selfe, that her Husband is moze perplexed then she and that I know by mine owne experience, for my husband and I were once at variance, but he could neuer be quiet till we were made friends. In good faith Gossip (saith another) so sorued I mine. Another makes a motion to send for the young Gallant that is so true a louer to her Gossips daughter, that his presence may chere her, and rid away her melancholly.

This motion both her Mother faintly contradict, but in the end most boyces psonalles, he is sent for, and comes with a trice; then there is much good chat, made a repaach and kinde scotte giuen the poore Husband: And to mend the matter comes in the Chamber maide; who was puiue to all the former close packing betwene her Mistresse and her sweet heart, and for her silence and employment, in furthering both their contents, she hath gotten a good new Gowne, and somewhat else.

It may bee her Maister hath sent her abroad about some business, or perhappes she coyues an excuse of her selfe, thereby onely to make a veppe abroad to see her Mistresse, and to bring her some newes how all things goes at home: When hath no power let her see within the room where they are, then one

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of them asks how her maister doth: my maister (saith she) I
 neuer saw a man in that taking: I dare say that since yesterday
 morning when this misfortune happened, he hath not eaten
 one crum, dranke one drop, or kept one winkle all yesternight.
 To day he sat downe to dinner, and put one bit in his mouth,
 but could not swallow it, so he spit it out presently, and sat a
 good while after in a dumpe: In the end striking his knife on
 the table, her rose hastily, & went into the garden, and immedi-
 ately came in againe: To be short, he is altogether out of tem-
 per, and can rest no where: he doth nothing but sigh and sob,
 and he looks like a dead man: herent they laugh apace, and to
 be short, they determine that two of the chiefs of them, shall
 goe and speake with him the next morning, and that when they
 are in the middle of their talks the rest shall come in afterward.
 The mother with her two Gossips, according to this plot doe
 proceede in the matter. And next morning finding him in his
 dumpe, one of them gently asks him what he ayles: hereto
 he answeres onely with a sigh: whereupon she takes occasion
 thus to speake. In good faith gossip I must chide you, my gos-
 sip your wines mother told me I know not what of a disa-
 grément betwene your wife and you, and a certaine sord hu-
 mor that you are fallen into: I wis I am sorry to heare it. And
 before God you are not so wise as I had thought you had bene,
 to wrong your wife thus without a cause, so I durst lay my
 life there is no such matter. By this good day (saith another) I
 haue knowne her euer since she was a little one, both maide
 and wife, and I neuer saw but well by the woman: And in good
 sooth it grieues me to the very heart, that her name should now
 come in question without cause: Before God, you haue done
 the worse woman that disgrace, and so stained her good name,
 that you will neuer be able to make her amends. Then steppes
 in the chamber-maid with her due egges. In good faith (saith
 she) I know not what my maister hath sene, or whereon he
 doth ground his suspicion, but I take God to my witness, that
 I neuer saw any such matter by my mistress, and yet I am
 sure that if there were any such thing, I should see it as cleare
 as an other. Gods body Dead (saith hee, all enraged) wilt thou
face

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see me before of that which my selfe sawe: Oh Gossip, (quoth one of the Dames) God forbid that every man & woman which is alone together should doe enill. I denie not (saith the Chambermaide, that the villanous knave hath said into my Mistresse for such a matter; but by my honesty I asseure, I knowe that there is neuer a man alius whom she hates more: and rather then she would commit any such follie with him, she would for him hang, and be burned her selfe: I maruell how the Di-
 uill he got into the house?

Here the other Gossips come in, one after another, and each giues her verdict: In good faith (Gossip saith one) I thinke, that next your wife, there is neuer a woman in the world that loues you better then I doe: and if I knowe or thought any such matter, I would not let to tel you of it. Surely (saith another) this is but the Diuels woork to set them at variance; for he can not abide that Husband & Wife should liue well together. In good faith saith the third, the poore woman doth nothing but weepe. By Christ (quoth the fourth) I feare it will cost her her life. She grieues and takes on in such sort. Then comes the Mother weeping and crying out, making as though she would scratch out his eyes with her nattes; & reclaiming in this sort.

Ah cursed Caitiffe, woe woorth the hoare that euer my Daughter matcht with thee, to be thus shamed and slandered, and haue her name spotted without cause. But she is well enough serued, that would take such a base Charles, when she might haue had sandy good Gentleman. Ah good Gossip (saith another) be not out of patience.

Ah Gossip (saith she) if my Daughter were in fault, by our good Lord I would kill her my selfe. But thinke for I haue no cause to be moued, when I see my childe, being guiltles thus abused? With that she flings out of swoyes in a rage. and all the Gossips come vpon him thicke and thicke, who is so full of sunnys thoughts, and so grieued and troubled, that he knowes not whereon to resolue, nor what to say.

In the end they growing somewhat calmer, promise, if bee

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will, to undertake the reconciling of him and his Wife, which
hee most earnestly desireth them to doe.

They accordingly performe it, so that all controuersies are
ended, all strife ceased, the matter hushed by: and his Wife ta-
ken home againe, who taking greater courage by the successe
herof, and being now cleane past shame, will grow farre bol-
der in her villaine then before. And her poore Peacocks, on
the other side, hauing his courage thus quailed, will neuer af-
terwards fall at odds with her, for feare of the like Royme, but
will suffer her to haue her owne saying in all things, and be in
a manner subiect to her, spending the remnant of his life,
in care, feare, discontent and grieve, his Gods
swasting hee knowes not how, and himselfe
become a laughing Stocke to all
that knowes him,

FINIS



